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# pit summer school\_11

## studying terrestrial invertebrates to investigate natural processes

**from June 4th to June 12th 2011**

**Parco Naturale Alpi Marittime, Valdieri (CN)**

How can we investigate the conservation status and evolution of ecosystems? Which are the characteristics that biological indicators should have so that they can become a suitable tool to investigate natural and artificial processes?

The PIT Summer School 2011 will try to answer these questions, giving theoretical and practical techniques to analyse the state of the environment, evaluate the ecosystem functionality, their complexity and pressures due to human activities they are directly or indirectly subjected to. Throughout an in-depth understanding of taxonomic knowledge of well-tested groups as environmental quality indicators, standardised methods for the habitat diversity estimation will be examined. Moreover, studies on natural and artificial processes, also originating from climate changes, will be developed.

Thanks to experienced lecturers known nationally and internationally, participants will experience an intense week dedicated to a critical examination of standardised collecting techniques, taxonomy, to data management and elaboration, and to the application of environmental quality indicators. The PIT Summer School provides a unique opportunity for participants to meet well known taxonomists and ecologists and experience firsthand the challenges and rewards of field work in an inspirational setting.

The PIT Summer School is organised within the framework of the Transboundary Integrated Action Plan (Transboundary Cooperation Programme Italy-France Alcotra 2007-2013).

The PIT Summer School originates from the collaboration of the Alpi Marittime Natural Park and the Museum of Natural History of Ferrara and EDIT (European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy).

### Contenuti del corso:

- modern taxonomy: state of the art, applications and perspectives. The European Distributed Institute of Taxonomy (EDIT) experience and the Mercantour/Marittime All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory and Monitoring (ATBI+M);
- safeguard and management of natural resources in the light of recent environmental emergences originating from natural and artificial processes;
- biodiversity and bioindication: from international legislation to the definition of standardised protocols for the evaluation of ecosystem quality and changes;
- potential, application and limits of selected bioindicators (a theoretical and practical approach to sampling techniques and identification in the lab);
- management and elaboration of data collected in the field and in the lab, and their interpretation;
- introduction to the study of vegetation, with particular reference to alpine habitats: theory and fieldwork.

The PIT Summer School is open to a maximum of 20 participants:

- 15 places are dedicated to students (also MSc and PhD students) of any nationality in biological and natural sciences disciplines;
- 5 places are dedicated to professionals working in the field of natural sciences (monitoring, habitat conservation and protected areas management).

Are currently enrolled in (or recently graduated from) a European University as a Master's student in a natural science discipline

The course will last 7 days (56 hours); all classes and fieldwork exercises will be taught in English.

The deadline for sending us the application form and the curriculum vitae is May 2nd 2011 (edit@parcoalpiarittime.it). Participants will be selected according to their curricula. The results of the selection will be communicated before May 20th 2011.



### Info

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