



Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche



ISTITUTO DI SCIENZE MARINE
Sede Territoriale (U.O.S.) di Bologna
Via Gobetti, 101
40129 Bologna

CICLO DI SEMINARI

Venerdì 16 Gennaio 2015

Sala riunioni terzo piano - ore 11:00

SPATIAL PATTERNS IN MICROSCOPIC ORGANISMS: NEW SCENARIO IN BIOGEOGRAPHY?

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Biogeography is an established ecological area of research, and all living organisms studied so far denote patterns, structures and peculiarities in their geographical distribution. Nevertheless, organisms smaller than 2 mm, with easily dispersed dormant propagules, seem to be without any spatial structure, cosmopolitan and without limiting factors in their distribution. This ubiquity assumption has been challenged and I will report recent empirical evidence mostly from rotifers, a group of microscopic animals, which may show a new picture emerging for microscopic animals. They show spatial patterns in their distribution at all scales, with the same ecological and historical forces driving their distribution as it happens for larger organisms. One advantage of microscopic animals in comparison to larger ones is that they can be used as an empirical system to test principles of biogeography with lab experiments and mesocosms.