

Simone Montano, Ph.D.

**Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT),
MaRHE (Marine Research and High Education) Center,
University of Milano – Bicocca (Italy)**

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Name: **Simone Montano**
- Date of birth : 10 January 1982
- Address (Home): Via Trieste 100, 20037, Paderno Du (MB), Italy
- Address (Work): Dept. Of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT), MaRHE (Maldives)
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- Email: simone.montano@unimib.it
- Nationality: Italian

CURRENT OCCUPATION - RESEARCH AREA

Assistant Professor of the University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT) and deputy director of MaRHE center , Maldives. I am a marine biologist mainly interested in the ecology and biology of the coral reef system. My current research activities are focusing on the coral health and diseases assessment of the Republic of Maldives. Furthermore, my researches are focusing on new emerging symbioses and in developing several mitigation tools for habitat restoration. All my activities are aimed to understand the dynamics that will drive this ecosystems under a climate change scenario in order to develop and propose environmental management plans.

National Scientific Qualification (Italy, ASN-Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) as Associate Professor in Ecology (Sector 05 / C1 - II category), valid from 08/10/2018 to 08/10/2024

National Scientific Qualification (Italy, ASN-Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale) as Professor in Ecology (Sector 05 / C1 - I category), valid from 10/06/2021 to 10/06/2030

EDUCATION

- 2009 – 2012 **Ph. D. in Biology**, University of Milano-Bicocca
- “*Coral health and disease assessment in the central Republic of Maldives*”
 - Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Galli
 - European PhD label – Evaluation: Excellent
- 2005 – 2008 **Master’s Degree course in Biology**, University of Milano-Bicocca
- “*Monitoraggio del coral bleaching nel Parco Marino di Watamu, Kenya*”
 - Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Galli, Dr. Francesca Benzoni, Dr. David Obura
 - Votation : 110 /110

- 2001 – 2005 **Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences**, University of Milano-Bicocca
- “*Studio dell’impatto della pesca illegale del dattero di mare (Lithophaga lithophaga) sulle falesie di Capo Noli e Punta del Maiolo, Savona, Liguria*”
 - Supervisor: Prof. Paolo Galli, Dr. Valeriano Parravicini
 - Votation : 100 /110
- 2003 **Internship in tropical marine ecology and biology**: Nature Conservation Training Centre located in the Ras Mohammed National Park, Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt.
- Organizers: University of Milano-Bicocca, DipTeRis Genoa University, CEMT (Centre for the Ecology of Marine Tropical Environments, University of Urbino)
- 2000 **Internship in biology** at the marine biology research centre
- "Acquario Civico di Milano" Via Gadio 2, 20126, Milan.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021-present Assistant Professor at University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT) – (RTD-B; 05/C1; BIO/07)
- 2019-2021 Researcher at University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT) – (RTD-A; 05/C1; BIO/07)
- 2016-2019 MaRHE Center Technologist, University of Milano-Bicocca (2° level, Category D, economic position D3, Sector 05/C1-Ecology)
- Reference people: Prof. Paolo Galli (Director of MaRHE Center)
- 2015 Coral specialist consultancy (Hurgada, Egypt)
- Biodiversity field surveys for terrestrial and marine communities
 - Employer: SeaMap srl, Savona, Italy
- 2011 – 2016 Research grant, University of Milano-Bicocca
- Study of the spatial variability of the distribution, hoste range, prevalence and specie-specific susceptibility of the coral diseases of the Maldivian Archipelago
 - Reference person: Prof. Paolo Galli
- 2011 Marine Biologist during a diving cruise in Maldives on Island Safari boat
- Reference: White Wave Maldives PVT.Ltd.
- 2010-2011 Scholarship, University of Milano-Bicocca (12 months)
- Ecology and Biodiversity of the Maldivian coral reefs
 - Reference person: Prof. Paolo Galli
- 2010 Coral specialist consultancy
- Morphometric study of the deep water corals in the Mediterranean Sea
 - Employer: CoNISma-*Consorzio Nazionale Interuniversitario per le Scienze del Mare*
- 2010 Coral survey project
- Development of a sensitive map of the Egyptian coral reefs

- Employer: *HEPCA-Hurgada Environmental Protection and Conservation Association*

- 2010 Coral specialist consultancy
 - Taxonomic identification of 38 fossil corals belonging to a historical (1600 a.d.) collection.
 - Employer: Mondadori Electa

- 2010 Environmental consulting (Goidhoo Island, Baa Atoll, Maldives)
 - Preliminary survey and study of the coral reef and benthic communities of Goidhoo Island, Baa Atoll, Maldives
 - Employer: Planhotel SA, Via Cantonale 3, 6901, Lugano, Swiss

- 2009-2010 Scholarship, University of Milano-Bicocca (10 months)
 - Biodiversity and ecology of Agariciidae (Cnidaria, Scleractinia) of the Gulf of Aden, Yemen
 - Reference person: Dott. Francesca Benzoni

- 2009 Environmental consulting (Athuruga Island, Ari Atoll, Maldives)
 - Coral community mapping for a coral reef restoration proposal in Athuruga Island, Ari Atoll, Maldives
 - Employer: Planhotel SA, Via Cantonale 3, 6901, Lugano, Swiss

- 2009 Coral specialist consulting (Yemen)
 - Underwater coral sampling activities on the coral reefs of Aden, Al Mukallah and Burhum, Yemen
 - Employer: *Creocean- Consultancy and Service in Coastal and Marine Environment and Oceanography*

- 2008 Coral specialist consulting (Yemen)
 - Underwater coral sampling activities on the coral reefs of Balahaf, Yemen
 - Employer: *Creocean- Consultancy and Service in Coastal and Marine Environment and Oceanography*

- 2006-2007 Biologist, nature guide, Toure leader (Temple Point Resort, Watamu, Kenya)
 - Tourist guide during excursions and snorkeling activities; lesson on tropical marine ecology
 - Employer: VentaClub Viaggio del Ventaglio

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

2021 – Scientific Head of the **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and the Government of the Republic of Maldives (Maldivian Marine Research Institute, Ministry of Fisheries, Marine Resource and Agriculture) on the development of a National Protocol for coral reef restoration and rehabilitation through coral propagation. Reference person Dr. Zaha Waheed (Minister of Fisheries, Marine Resource and Agriculture, Malé, Maldives)

2020 – Member of Scientific committee of the **Framework Agreement** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and Stazione Zoologia Anton Dohrn (SZN, Naples, Italy) to promote and reinforce scientific and academic cooperation in the field of marine ecology. Reference person Dott. Roberto Arrigoni (Stazione Zoologia Anton Dohrn, Italy)

2020 – Scientific coordinator of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and Aquarium of Genova (Italy) to promote and reinforce scientific and academic cooperation on the coral health assessment and threats mitigation. Reference person Dott.ssa Silvia Lavorano (Aquarium of Genova, Italy)

2020 – Scientific coordinator and principal investigator of the **MoU Program Agreement for Scientific Collaboration** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and LABORATORIO DE BIOLOGÍA DE CNIDARIOS (LABIC), a scientific research laboratory member of Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (IIMyC) to promote and reinforce scientific and academic cooperation in the field of marine ecology. Reference person Dr. Fabián H. Acuña (LABIC, Argentine)

2017 – Scientific coordinator of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and Italian Institute of Technology (IIT) to share competences to develop new methodologies focused on the habitat restoration. Reference person Prof. Roberto Cingolani (Italian Institute of Technology (IIT))

2017 – Scientific coordinator of the **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and Corales de Paz (Colombia) to implement a scientific and academic cooperation programme with the aim to promote interest in the teaching and research activities of the respective institutions in the Marine Biology sector. Reference person Dott. Phanor Montoya-Maya (Corales de Paz)

2015 – **Visiting researcher** at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Red Sea Research Center, Thuwal, Saudi Arabia. Project: "Evaluation of the coral reef system of the central Red Sea".

TEACHING AND EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

2020 – present	Laboratory for the teaching of Ecology, Module Ecology (BIO/07), 3 CFU (ECTS)
2016 – present	Lecturer of “Marine Ecology and Biodiversity”, module Biodiversity (BIO/07; 6 CFU - ETCS) in the International master degree in Marine Sciences of the University of Milano Bicocca
2017-present	International Workshop “Coral Reef Restoration” at the MarHE Center of the University of Milano Bicocca (Magoodhoo, Faafu Atoll, Maldives) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Responsible
2010 - present	Internship in tropical marine ecology at the Marine Research and High Education Centre of the University of Milano Bicocca (Maghodhoo Island, Faafu Atoll, Maldives) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Organizer and lecturer for the students of the University Milano Bicocca and The Second University of Naples
2019	Ecology and Identification of tropical marine fishes Workshop at the MarHE Center of the University of Milano Bicocca (Magoodhoo, Faafu Atoll, Maldives) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assistant and lecturer
2013-2018	Lecturer for the Ecology Lab (BIO/07; 1 CFU) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Biology degree, University Milano-Bicocca▪ Contract professor
2013	Workshop “ <i>Marine ecology of the Red Sea</i> ” for the students of University of Milano Bicocca (Dahab, Egypt) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project creator and organizer, dive instructor and lecturer▪ In collaboration with Open Ocean Science Centre and I-Dive diving
2011	Master “ <i>Marine sciences for sustainable development</i> ” at the Marine Research and High Education Centre of the University of Milano Bicocca (Maghodhoo Island, Faafu Atoll, Maldives) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lectures and assistance▪ Reference person: Dott. Paolo Galli
2008-2009	Internship in tropical marine ecology and biology at the Nature Conservation Training Centre located in the Ras Mohammed National Park, Sharm-El-Sheik, Egypt <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lectures and assistance for the students of the University Milano Bicocca and The Second University of Naples▪ Reference person: Dott. Paolo Galli

SUPERVISION

- Supervisor and tutor for thesis activity of **20 Bachelor degree students** (Bachelor degree in Biological Sciences and in the Environmental Sciences, University of Milano Bicocca).
- Supervisor and tutor of thesis activity of **21 Master degree students** (Master degree in Biology-University Milano-Bicocca, International Master Degree in Marine Sciences-University of Milano-Bicocca, Master Degree in Marine Biology-University of Lecce, University Polytechnic of Marche-University of Bologna)
- Supervisor and tutor of thesis activity of **5 PhD students** (Biology, University of Milano-Bicocca)

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2019	Martin fellowship from Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands to participate at the Bonaire Marine Biodiversity 2017 Expedition, Netherlands Antilles (€ 2000)
2017	Martin fellowship from Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands to participate at the Curacao Marine Biodiversity 2017 Expedition, Netherlands Antilles (€ 2700)
2016	International Award entitled: "Mario Benazzi e Giuseppina Benazzi Lentati" addressed to a Zoologist from the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei (€ 10'000)
2015	Research Grant from PADI Foundation, Beverly Hills, USA regarding the project: Hydroid Diversity of Magoodhoo Island, Republic of Maldives (\$ 4000)
2015	Martin fellowship from Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, Netherlands to participate at the STATIA Marine Biodiversity 2015 Expedition, Netherlands Antilles (€ 2800)

EDITORIAL DUTIES AND SOCIETY FELLOWS

Editor: *Diversity* - ISSN 1424-2818; CODEN: DIVEC6 – 2019
Editor: *Frontiers in Conservation Science* - (Global Biodiversity Threats)

Referee/Reviewer: *Plos One*, *Marine Biodiversity*, *Disease of Aquatic Organisms*, *Journal of Sea Research*, *Zoologica*, *Peer J*, *Zoologica Sciences*, *Marine Biology Research*, *Diversity*

- Member of the internal scientific committee of the Marine Research and High Education Center (MaRHE Center) of University of Milano-Bicocca
- Member of the Italian Society of Ecology (SIte)
- Member of the International Society of the Reef Studies (ISRS)
- Chair of the "5th Young Reef Scientists Meeting" (09/18, Munich, Germany) in the session "Reefs under stresses"
- Chair of the "1st joint congress of the Italian Society of Ecology and the Italian Zoological Union (09/2016, Milano, Italy) in the session "Marine Ecology"

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

- Languages: **Italian** - (mother tongue)
English - Advanced level C1 / C2 (Understanding, speaking, writing)
- Specialistic Software: Multivariate Statistic (PRIMER V7, XLStat, SPSS); phylogenetic analysis (BioEdit, Mr Bayes, Paup, TreeV, Cluster V)
- Underwater sampling techniques (diving and snorkeling)
- Invertebrate sampling (aquatic and terrestrial environment)
- Processing and taxonomical identification of macro- and micro invertebrates
- Knowledge of the main laboratory techniques of molecular biology: DNA extraction from animal tissues, electrophoresis, PCR analysis
- Use SEM (Scanner Electronic Microscope)
- **Diving skills:** Open Water Scuba Instructor PADI (#324445), Enriched Air Instructor PADI, Deep Air Instructor PADI, Drift Diver Instructor PADI, Digital Underwater photographer Instructor PADI, Night Diver Instructor PADI, Divemaster PADI. More than 900 dives. **About 750 scientific dives**
- License of European Advance Scientific Diver
- Emergency First Response Instructor (Primary / Secondary Care and Care for Children)
- Creator and Responsible of two **virtual certifications**
 - Coral Restoration Technique <https://bestr.it/badge/show/400>
 - Coral Health and Disease Assessment <https://bestr.it/badge/show/1866>

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Author of **95 published peer reviewed papers** in scientific international journals (H-index 23; i10-index 52; source Google Scholar 13/01/2023): RG https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Simone_Montano

1. Montalbetti, E., Cavallo, S., Azzola, A., **Montano, S.**, Galli, P., Montefalcone, M., & Seveso, D. (2022). Mucilage-induced necrosis reveals cellular oxidative stress in the Mediterranean gorgonian *Paramuricea clavata*. *Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology*, 151839.
2. Montalbetti, E., Isa, V., Vencato, S., Louis, Y., **Montano, S.**, Lavorano, S., ... & Seveso, D. (2022). Short-term microplastic exposure triggers cellular damage through oxidative stress in the soft coral *Coelogorgia palmosa*. *Marine Biology Research*, 1-14.
3. Dehnert, I., Galli, P., & **Montano, S.** (2022). Ecological impacts of coral gardening outplanting in the Maldives. *Restoration Ecology*, e13783.
4. **Montano, S.** (2022). Diversity of Coral-Associated Fauna: An Urgent Call for Research. *Diversity*, 14(9), 765.
5. Dehnert, I., Saponari, L., Isa, V., Seveso, D., Galli, P., & **Montano, S.** (2022). Exploring the performance of mid-water lagoon nurseries for coral restoration in the Maldives. *Restoration Ecology*, 30(7), e13600.
6. Gobbato, J., Magrini, A., García-Hernández, J. E., Viridis, F., Galli, P., Seveso, D., & **Montano, S.** (2022). Spatial Ecology of the Association between Demosponges and *Nematelecium lighti* at Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean. *Diversity*, 14(8), 607.
7. Raguso, C., Saliu, F., Lasagni, M., Galli, P., Clemenza, M., & **Montano, S.** (2022). First detection of microplastics in reef-building corals from a Maldivian atoll. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 180, 113773.
8. **Montano, S.**, Aeby, G., Galli, P., & Hoeksema, B. W. (2022). Feeding Behavior of *Coralliophila* sp. on Corals Affected by Caribbean Ciliate Infection (CCI): A New Possible Vector?. *Diversity*, 14(5), 363.
9. Maggioni, G., Huang, D., Maggioni, D., Jain, S. S., Quek, R. Z., Poquita-Du, R. C., **Montano S.**, & Seveso, D. (2022). The Association of *Waminoa* with Reef Corals in Singapore and Its Impact on Putative Immune-and Stress-Response Genes. *Diversity*, 14(4), 300.
10. Isa, V., Saliu, F., Bises, C., Vencato, S., Raguso, C., **Montano, S.**, ... & Galli, P. (2022). Phthalates bioconcentration in the soft corals: Inter-and intra-species differences and ecological aspects. *Chemosphere*, 297, 134247.
11. Montalbetti, E., Fallati, L., Casartelli, M., Maggioni, D., **Montano, S.**, Galli, P., & Seveso, D. (2022). Reef complexity influences distribution and habitat choice of the corallivorous seastar *Culcita schmideliana* in the Maldives. *Coral Reefs*, 41(2), 253-264.
12. Dehnert, I., Saponari, L., Galli, P., & **Montano, S.** (2022). Comparing different farming habitats for mid-water rope nurseries to advance coral restoration efforts in the Maldives. *PeerJ*, 10, e12874.
13. **Montano, S.**, Dehnert, I., Seveso, D., Maggioni, D., Montalbetti, E., Strona, G., ... & Montoya-Maya, P. H. (2022). Effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns on the management of coral restoration projects. *Restoration Ecology*, e13646.
14. Cerri, F., Saliu, F., Maggioni, D., **Montano, S.**, Seveso, D., Lavorano, S., ... & Galli, P. (2022). Cytotoxic compounds from *Alcyoniidae*: An overview of the last 30 years. *Marine Drugs*, 20(2), 134.
15. Vencato, S., Isa, V., Seveso, D., Saliu, F., Galli, P., Lavorano, S., & **Montano, S.** (2021). Soft corals and microplastics interaction: first evidence in the alcyonacean species *Coelogorgia palmosa*. *Aquatic Biology*, 30, 133-139.

16. Strona, G., Beck, P. S., Cabeza, M., Fattorini, S., Guilhaumon, F., Micheli, F., **Montano S** & Parravicini, V. (2021). Ecological dependencies make remote reef fish communities most vulnerable to coral loss. *Nature communications*, 12(1), 1-10.
17. Dehnert, I., Saponari, L., Isa, V., Seveso, D., Galli, P., & **Montano, S.** (2021). Exploring the performance of mid-water lagoon nurseries for coral restoration in the Maldives. *Restoration Ecology*, e13600.
18. Maggioni, D., Schuchert, P., Arrigoni, R., Hoeksema, B. W., Huang, D., Strona, G., ... & **Montano, S.** (2021). Integrative systematics illuminates the relationships in two sponge-associated hydrozoan families (Capitata: Sphaerocorynidae and Zancleopsidae). *Contributions to Zoology*, 90(4-5), 487-525.
19. Macher, J. N., Kayal, E., Duijm, E., van der Hoorn, B., **Montano, S.**, & Speksnijder, A. (2021). The mitochondrial genome of *Nemalecium lighti* (Hydrozoa, Leptothecata). *Mitochondrial DNA Part B*, 6(11), 3196-3198.
20. Contardi, M., **Montano, S.**, Galli, P., Mazzon, G., Mah'd Moh'd Ayyoub, A., Seveso, D., ... & Bayer, I. S. (2021). Marine Fouling Characteristics of Biocomposites in a Coral Reef Ecosystem. *Advanced Sustainable Systems*, 5(9), 2100089.
21. Maggioni, D., Garese, A., Huang, D., Hoeksema, B. W., Arrigoni, R., Seveso, D., ... & **Montano, S.** (2021). Diversity, host specificity and biogeography in the Cladocorynidae (Hydrozoa, Capitata), with description of a new genus. *Cladistics*.
22. Strona, G., Lafferty, K. D., Fattorini, S., Beck, P. S., Guilhaumon, F., Arrigoni, R., **Montano S** & Parravicini, V. (2021). Global tropical reef fish richness could decline by around half if corals are lost. *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*, 288(1953), 20210274.
23. Galli, P., **Montano, S.**, Seveso, D., & Maggioni, D. (2021). Coral Reef Biodiversity of the Maldives. In *Atolls of the Maldives: Nissology and Geography*, Rowman & Littlefield, London UK, pp 196-2011.
24. Saponari, L., Dehnert, I., Galli, P., & **Montano, S.** (2021). Assessing population collapse of *Drupella* spp.(Mollusca: Gastropoda) 2 years after a coral bleaching event in the Republic of Maldives. *Hydrobiologia*, 1-14.
25. Arrigoni, R., Huang, D., Berumen, M. L., Budd, A. F., **Montano, S.**, Richards, Z. T., & Benzoni, F. (2021). Integrative systematics of the scleractinian coral genera *Caulastraea*, *Erythrastrea* and *Oulophyllia*. *Zoologica Scripta*.
26. Seveso D, YD Louis, Montano S, Galli P, Saliu F (2021) The Mauritius oil spill: What's next? *Pollutants 1*: 18-28
27. Seveso D, Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Montalbetti E, Berumen ML, Galli P, **Montano S** (2020) Environmental gradients and host availability affecting the symbiosis between *Pteroclava krempfi* and alcyonaceans in the Saudi Arabian central Red Sea. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 653:91-103
28. Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Seveso D, Galli P, Berumen ML, Denis V, Hoeksema BW, Huang D, Manca F, Pica D, Puce S, Reimer JD, **Montano S** (2020). Evolution and biogeography of the *Zanclaea*-Scleractinia symbiosis. *Coral Reefs*, 1-17.
29. **Montano S** (2020). The Extraordinary Importance of Coral-Associated Fauna. *Diversity*, 12, 0357
30. Fiore F, Siena F, Saponari L, Galli P, **Montano S** (2020). Users' satisfaction on coral restoration projects: The case of the Maldives. *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 38, 101369.
31. Maggioni D, Schiavo A, Ostrovsky AN, Seveso D, Galli P, Arrigoni R., Berumen ML, Benzoni F, **Montano S.** (2020). Cryptic species and host specificity in the bryozoan-associated hydrozoan *Zanclaea divergens* (Hydrozoa, Zancleidae). *Molecular phylogenetics and evolution*, 151, 106893.

32. **Montano S**, Reimer JD, Ivanenko VN, García-Hernández JE, van Moorsel GWNM, Galli P, Hoeksema BW, (2020). Widespread Occurrence of a Rarely Known Association between the Hydrocorals *Stylaster roseus* and *Millepora alcicornis* at Bonaire, Southern Caribbean. *Diversity*, 12, 218
33. **Montano S**, Seveso D, Maggioni D, Galli P, Corsarini S, Saliu F (2020). Spatial variability of phthalates contamination in the reef-building corals *Porites lutea*, *Pocillopora verrucosa* and *Pavona varians*. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 155, 111117
34. Arrigoni R, Berumen ML, Mariappan KG, Beck PS, Hulver AM, **Montano S**, Benzoni F (2020). Towards a rigorous species delimitation framework for scleractinian corals based on RAD sequencing: the case study of *Leptastrea* from the Indo-Pacific. *Coral Reefs*, 1-25
35. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Voigt O, Seveso D, Galli P (2020). A mesophotic hotel: the octocoral *Bebryce cf grandicalyx* as a host. *ESA Bulletin*
36. Saliu F, **Montano S**, Hoeksema BW, Lasagni M, Galli P (2020). A non-lethal SPME-LC/MS method for the analysis of plastic-associated contaminants in coral reef invertebrates. *Analytical Methods*, 12: 1935-1942
37. Maggioni D, Saponari L, Seveso D, Galli P, Schiavo A, Ostrovsky AN, **Montano S** (2020). Green Fluorescence Patterns in Closely Related Symbiotic Species of *Zanclaea* (Hydrozoa, Capitata). *Diversity*, 12(2), 78.
38. **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Liguori G, Arrigoni R, Berumen ML, Seveso D, Hoeksema BW (2020). Morpho-molecular traits of Indo-Pacific and Caribbean *Halofolliculina* ciliate infections. *Coral Reefs*, 1-12
39. Contardi M, **Montano S**, Liguori G, Heredia-Guerrero JA, Galli P, Athanassiou A, Bayer IS (2020). treatment of coral Wounds by combining an Antiseptic Bilayer film and an injectable Antioxidant Biopolymer. *Scientific reports*, 10: 1-10
40. Saliu F, **Montano S**, Lasagni M, Galli P (2020). Biocompatible solid-phase microextraction coupled to liquid chromatography triple quadrupole mass spectrometry analysis for the determination of phthalates in marine invertebrate. *Journal of Chromatography A* 460852
41. Rotini A, Conte C, Seveso D, **Montano S**, Galli P, Vai M, Migliore L, Mejia A (2020). Daily variation of the associated microbial community and the Hsp60 expression in the Maldivian seagrass *Thalassia hemprichii*. *Journal of Sea Research* 101835
42. Seveso D, Arrigoni R, **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Orlandi I, Berumen ML, Vai M (2020). Investigating the heat shock protein response involved in coral bleaching across scleractinian species in the central Red Sea. *Coral Reefs*, 39: 85-98
43. Montalbetti E, Saponari L, **Montano S**, Seveso D (2019). Another diner sits at the banquet: evidence of a possible population outbreak of *Culcita* sp. (Agassiz, 1836) in Maldives. *Galaxea, Journal of Coral Reef Studies* 21: 5-6
44. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Voigt O, Seveso D, Galli P (2019). A mesophotic hotel: the octocoral *Bebryce cf grandicalyx* as a host. *Ecology*, e02950
45. Saliu F, **Montano S**, Leoni B, Lasagni M, Galli P (2019). Microplastics as a threat for coral reef environments: Detection of phthalate esters in neuston and scleractinian corals from the Faafu Atoll, Maldives. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 142: 234-241
46. Manca F, Puce S, Caragnano A, Maggioni D, Pica D, Seveso D, Galli P, **Montano S** (2019). Footprints of symbiotic hydrozoans highlight the diversity of the coral associated *Zanclaea* (Cnidaria, Capitata). *Zoologica Scripta*, Doi: 10.1111/zsc.12345
47. Seveso D, **Montano S**, Maggioni D (2018). In the shadow of the lionfish: interspecific association involving red emperor snapper (*Lutjanus sebae*) in Madagascar. *Coral Reefs* 37: 1181

48. Galea HR, Di Camillo CG, Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Schuchert P 2018. A reassessment of *Halopteris polymorpha* (Billard, 1913) (Cnidaria: Hydrozoa), with descriptions of three new species *Revue suisse de Zoologie* 125(1): 21-59
49. Saponari L, Galli P, **Montano S**, 2018. First record of *Phycocaris simulans* (Decapoda; Hippolytidae) from the Republic of Maldives. *Galaxea*, 20: 11-12
50. Maggioni D, Saponari L, **Montano S**, 2018 Shrimps with a coat: an amphipod hiding in the mantle of *Coriocella hibyae* (Gastropoda, Velutinidae). *Coral Reefs*, doi.org/10.1007/s00338-018-1688-8
51. Saponari L, Montalbetti E, Galli P, Strona G, Seveso D, Dehnert I, **Montano S**, 2018. Monitoring and assessing a 2-year outbreak of the corallivorous seastar *Acanthaster planci* in Ari Atoll, Republic of Maldives *Environ Monit Assess* 190:344
52. Seveso D, **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Pedretti F, Orlandi I, Galli P, Vai M, 2018. Diel modulation of Hsp70 and Hsp60 in corals living in a shallow reef. *Coral Reefs* 37:801–806
53. Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Galli P, Berumen M, Seveso D, **Montano S**, 2018. Polyphyly of the genus *Zanclaea* and family Zanclaeidae (Hydrozoa, Capitata) revealed by the integrative analysis of two bryozoan-associated species *Contributions to Zoology*, 87 (2) 87-104
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Author and coauthor of **59 oral and poster presentations for national and international symposia since 2010 to present**

- 1) Jacopo Gobbato, Inga Dehnert, Davide Seveso, Davide Maggioni, Enrico Montalbetti, Federica Siena, Paolo Galli, Giovanni Strona, Hana Amir, Athina Antoine, Camila Marino-Ramirez, Luca Saponari, Nirmal Jivan Shah, Ruben Azcarate Molina, Angela Alegria Ortega, Phanor Hernando Montoya-Maya & **Simone Montano** (2022) Effect of the COVID-19 lockdowns on the management of Maldivian coral restoration projects. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.

- 2) Federico Cerri, Paolo Galli, Francesco Saliu, Davide Maggioni, **Simone Montano**, Davide Seveso, Orazio Tagliatela- Scafati, Paola Fusi, Matilde Emma Forcella & Monica Oldani (2022) Bioprospecting of Maldivian soft coral: chemical ecology and cytotoxic activity of their secondary metabolites with a focus on the biochemical investigation of their effect against cancer cell lines. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 3) Davide Maggioni, Davide Seveso, Enrico Montalbetti, Luca Fallati, Jacopo Gobbato, Inga Dehnert, Federica Siena, Yohan Didier Louis, Paolo Galli & **Simone Montano** (2022) Hydrozoan research at the MaRHE Center, F. Magoodhoo: an overview. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 4) Enrico Montalbetti, Luca Fallati, Jacopo Gobbato, Inga Dehnert, Marco Casartelli, Davide Maggioni, **Simone Montano**, Paolo Galli & Davide Seveso (2022) Reef complexity influences distribution and habitat choice of the corallivorous seastar *Culcita schmideliana* in the Maldives. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 5) Inga Dehnert, Luca Saponari, Paolo Galli, Federica Siena, Jacopo Gobbato, Davide Seveso & **Simone Montano** (2022) Coral gardening in the Maldives: opportunities and challenges of upscaling restoration efforts. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 6) Federica Siena, Hana Amir, Paolo Galli, Inga Dehnert, Jacopo Gobbato, Luca Fallati, Davide Maggioni, Davide Seveso, Enrico Montalbetti & **Simone Montano** (2022) Launching of a national monitoring protocol for coral reef restoration projects. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 7) Hana Amir, Ahmed Basheer, Ilham Atho Mohamed, **Simone Montano** & Philippa Roe (2022) Evaluating extinction risk: a Maldivian national red list of corals. 4th Maldivian Marine Science Symposium, 13-14 August 2022, Male, Maldives. Maldives National University Auditorium.
- 8) S. Vencato*, F. Saliu, V. Isa, **S. Montano**, D. Seveso, P. Galli, S. Lavorano, S. Coppa, A. Camedda, G. Massaro, G.A. De Lucia. Microplastics and associated plasticizers: presence and detection in cnidarians used as possible bioindicators for microplastic contamination in marine environments. International Conference on Microplastic Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea” – μMED, Napoli 2022.
- 9) Gobbato J, Magrini A, Garcia-Hernandez J, Virdis F, Galli P, Seveso D, **Montano S** (2022) Spatial ecology of the association between demosponges and *Nemacium lighti* at Bonaire, Dutch Caribbean, 31th Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE), 13-15 September 2022, Siena, Italy (Oral presentation).
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- 51) **Montano S**, Galli P, Maggioni D, Seveso D, Puce S (2014). First record of coral-associated Zanclea from the Red Sea. *XXIV° Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SIte)*, 15-17 settembre 2014, Ferrara (poster presentation)
- 52) **Montano S**, Strona G, Seveso D, Galli P (2013). Prevalence, host range and spatial distribution of Black Band disease in the Maldivian coral reef. *XXIII° Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SIte)*, 16-18 settembre 2013, Ancona (poster presentation)
- 53) **Montano S**, Seveso D, Strona G, Arrigoni R, Galli P (2012). Coral diseases in the central Republic of Maldives. *XXII° Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SIte)*, 10-13 settembre 2012. *Alessandria* (oral presentation)
- 54) Seveso D, **Montano S**, Strona G, Orlandi I, Vai M, Ancona N, Galli P (2012). Modulation of the 60-kda Heat shock proteins (Hsp60) levels in corals subjected to biotic and abiotic stresses. *XXII° Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SIte)*, 10-13 settembre 2012. *Alessandria* (oral presentation)
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