

## **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

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- Name: **Simone Montano**
- Date of birth : 10 January 1982
- Address (Home): Via Groane 35, 20812, Limbiate (MB), Italy
- Address (Work): Dept. Of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT), MaRHE (Maldives)
- Telephone: +39 3336087617 (Mobile); +39 0264482950 (Office)
- Email: simone.montano@unimib.it
- Nationality: Italian

### CURRENT OCCUPATION - RESEARCH AREA

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**I am researcher of the University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT).** 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 involving hard, soft and hydro-corals, 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**

### EDUCATION

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- 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

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- 2019-present Researcher at University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (DISAT)
- 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 COLLABORATION

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2020 – Member of Scientific committee of the **Framework Agreement** between University of Milan-Bicocca (MaRHE Center) and Stazione Zoologia Anton Dohrn (SZN, Napoli, 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

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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; 4 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"><li>• Project Responsible</li></ul>
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"><li>▪ Organizer and lecturer for the students of the University Milano Bicocca and The Second University of Naples</li></ul>
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"><li>• Assistant and lecturer</li></ul>
2013-2018	Lecturer for the Ecology Lab (BIO/07; 1 CFU) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Biology degree, University Milano-Bicocca</li><li>▪ Contract professor</li></ul>
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"><li>▪ Project creator and organizer, dive instructor and lecturer</li><li>▪ In collaboration with Open Ocean Science Centre and I-Dive diving</li></ul>
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"><li>▪ Lectures and assistance</li><li>▪ Reference person: Dott. Paolo Galli</li></ul>
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"><li>▪ Lectures and assistance for the students of the University Milano Bicocca and The Second University of Naples</li><li>▪ Reference person: Dott. Paolo Galli</li></ul>

## SUPERVISION

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- 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 **15 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 **4 PhD student** (Biology, University of Milano-Bicocca)

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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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

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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 (SIe)
- 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

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- 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 800 dives. **About 650 scientific dives**
- License of European Advance Scientific Diver
- Emergency First Response Instructor (Primary / Secondary Care and Care for Children)

## SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

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Author of **73 published peer reviewed papers** in scientific international journals (H-index 21; i10-index 36; source Google Scholar 25/03/2021): RG [https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Simone\\_Montano](https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Simone_Montano)

1. Galli, P., **Montano, S.**, Seveso, D., & Maggioni, D. (2021). Coral Reef Biodiversity of the Maldives. Atolls of the Maldives: Nissology and Geography, 196.
2. 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.
3. 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*.
4. Seveso D, YD Louis, Montano S, Galli P, Saliu F (2021) The Mauritius oil spill: What's next? *Pollutants 1*: 18-28
5. 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
6. 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.
7. **Montano S**(2020). The Extraordinary Importance of Coral-Associated Fauna. *Diversity*, 12, 0357
8. 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.
9. 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, Zanclaeidae). *Molecular phylogenetics and evolution*, 151, 106893.
10. **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
11. **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
12. 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
13. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Voigt O, Seveso D, Galli P (2020). A mesophotic hotel: the octocoral *Bebryce cf grandicalyx* as a host. *ESA Bulletin*
14. 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
15. 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.
16. **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



17. 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
18. 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
19. 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
20. 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
21. 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
22. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Voigt O, Seveso D, Galli P (2019). A mesophotic hotel: the octocoral *Bebryce cf grandicalyx* as a host. *Ecology*, e02950
23. 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
24. 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
25. 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
26. 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
27. Saponari L, Galli P, **Montano S**, 2018. First record of *Phycocaris simulans* (Decapoda; Hippolytidae) from the Republic of Maldives. *Galaxea*, 20: 11-12
28. 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
29. 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
30. 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
31. 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
32. Saliu F, **Montano S**, Garavaglia M, Lasagni M, Seveso D, Galli P, 2018. Microplastic and charred microplastic in the Faafu Atoll, Maldives. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 136, 464-471

33. Montalbetti E, Saponari L, **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Dehnert I, Galli I, Seveso D, 2018. New insights into the ecology and corallivory of *Culcita* sp. (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) in the Republic of Maldives. *Hydrobiologia*
34. Arrigoni R, Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Hoeksema BW, Seveso D, Shlesinger T, Terraneo TI, Tietbohl MD, Berumen M, 2018. An integrated morpho-molecular approach to delineate species boundaries of *Millepora* from the Red Sea. *Coral Reefs*
35. **Montano S**, Fattorini S, Parravicini V, Berumen ML, Galli P, Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Seveso D, Strona G (2017) Corals hosting symbiotic hydrozoans are less susceptible to predation and disease Proceeding B Royal Society 284: 20172405
36. Maggioni D, Galli P, Berumen ML, Arrigoni R, Seveso D, **Montano S** (2017) *Astrocoryne cabela*, gen. nov. et sp. nov. (Hydrozoa: Sphaerocorynidae), a new sponge-associated hydrozoan. *Invertebrate Systematics*, 31: 734-746
37. **Montano S**, Maggioni D (2017) Camouflage of sea spiders (Arthropoda, Pycnogonida) inhabiting *Pavona varians*. *Coral Reefs*
38. Maggioni D, Puce S, Galli P, Seveso D, **Montano S** (2017) Description of *Turritupsoides marhei* sp. nov. (Hydrozoa, Anthoathecata) from the Maldives and its phylogenetic position. *Marine Biology Research*
39. Pica D, Bastari A, Vaga CF, Di Camillo CG, **Montano S**, Puce S (2017) Hydroid diversity of Eilat Bay with the description of a new *Zanclaea* species. *Marine Biology Research*,
40. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Arrigoni R, Galli P, Puce S, Pica D, Berumen ML (2017) Genetic diversity of the *Acropora*-associated hydrozoans: new insight from the Red Sea. *Marine Biodiversity*, 1-11
41. Seveso D, **Montano S**, et al. (2016) The cellular stress response of the scleractinian coral *Goniopora columna* during the progression of the black band disease. *Cell Stress and Chaperones*, DOI 10.1007/s12192-016-0756-7
42. **Montano S**, et al. (2016) Habitat preferences of *Pteroclava krempfi*-alcyonaceans symbiosis: inner vs outer coral reefs. *Symbiosis*, DOI 10.1007/s13199-016-0467-y
43. **Montano S**, et al. (2016) A cryptic species in the *Pteroclava krempfi* (Hydrozoa, Cladocorynidae) species complex revealed in the Caribbean. *Marine Biodiversity*, doi: 10.1007/s12526-016-0555-5
44. **Montano S**, et al. (2016) Spatial variability in distribution and prevalence of Skeletal Eroding Band and Brown Band Disease in Faafu Atoll, Maldives. *Biodiversity and Conservation*, doi: 10.1007/s10531-016-1145-3
45. Seveso D, **Montano S**, et al. (2016) Temperature – dependent Hsp 60 expression profiles in the reef-building coral *Seriatopora caliendrum* subjected to different thermal regimes, *Marine Environmental Research*, 119: 1-11
46. Maggioni D, **Montano S**, et al. (2016) Molecular evidence for cryptic species of *Pteroclava krempfi* (Hydrozoa, Cladocorynidae) living in association with alcyonaceans, *Systematics and Biodiversity*, doi: 10.1080/14772000.2016.1170735
47. Giorgi A, Monti T, Galli P, **Montano S** (2016) Entoprocta-sponge associations in the Indian Ocean, *Coral Reefs*, doi 10.1007/s00338-016-1418-z
48. **Montano S**, Galli P, Hoeksema WB (2016) First record from the Atlantic: a *Zanclaea*-scleractinian association at St. Eustatius, Dutch Caribbean, *Marine Biodiversity*, doi 10.1007/s12526-015-0432-7
49. Seveso D, **Montano S**, Pica D, Maggioni D, Galli P, Bastari A, Puce S (2015) *Pteroclava krempfi*-octocoral associations: new information from Indian Ocean and Red Sea. *Marine Biodiversity*, doi: 10.1007/s12526-015-0368-y
50. **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Seveso D, Puce S, Galli P (2015) The hidden diversity of the *Zanclaea* associated with scleractinians revealed by molecular data. *PlosONE*, DOI:10.1371/journal.pone.0133084
51. **Montano S**, Strona G, Seveso D, Maggioni D, Galli P (2015) Widespread occurrence of coral diseases in central Archipelago of Maldives. *Marine and Freshwater Ecosystem*, doi: /10.1071/MF14373

52. Seveso D, **Montano S**, Reggente M, Orlandi I, Vai M (2015) The modulation of HSP 60 in response to the coral Brown Band Disease. *Diseases of Aquatic Organisms*, doi 10.3354/dao02871
53. **Montano S**, Seveso D, Galli P, Puce S, Hoeksema BW (2015) Mushroom coral as newly recorded host of the hydrozoan symbiont *Zanclaea* sp. *Marine Biology Research*, doi 10.1080/17451000.2015.1009467
54. Strona G, Fattorini S, **Montano S**, Seveso D, Galli P, Ayan JSM (2015) ECo: A new measure evaluating the degree of consistency between environmental factors and spatial arrangement of species assemblages. *Ecological Indicators*, 52: 66-74
55. Saponari L, **Montano S**, Seveso D, Galli P. (2014) The occurrence of an *Acanthaster planci* outbreak in Ari Atoll, Maldives. *Marine Biodiversity*, doi 10.1007/s12526-014-0276-6
56. **Montano S**, Strona G, Seveso D, Maggioni D, Galli P (2014) Slow progression of black band disease in *Goniopora* cf. *columna* colonies may promote its persistence in a coral community. *Marine Biodiversity*, doi 10.1007/s12526-014-0273-9
57. **Montano S**, Chow WH, Chen AC, Galli P, Reimer JD. Fort record of coral killing sponge *Terpios hoshinota* in the Maldives and Indian Ocean. *Bulletin of Marine Science*, doi 10.5343/bms.2014.1054
58. **Montano S**, Arrigoni R, Pica D, Maggioni D, Puce S (2014). New insights into the symbiosis between *Zanclaea* (Cnidaria, Hydrozoa) and scleractinians. *Zoologica Scripta*, doi 10.1111/zsc.12081
59. Strona G, Galli P, Seveso D, **Montano S**, Fattorini S (2014). Nestedness for Dummies (NeD): A user-friendly web interface for explanatory Nestedness analysis. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 59: 1-9
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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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Author and coauthor of **46 oral and poster presentations for national and international symposia since 2010 to present**

- 1) **Montano S**. A monitoring protocol for maldivian coral restoration projects. Coral restoration and rehabilitation workshop, 1 October, 2020, Malè, Republic of Maldives
- 2) Saliu F, Galli P, **Montano S**, Lasagni M. Microplastic and charred microplastic as a threat to coral reef environment. Urbino, 2019, Italy
- 3) **Montano S**, Liguori G, Maggioni D, Arrigoni R, Seveso D, Hoeksema BW, Saponari L, Dehnert I, Montalbetti E, Galli P (2019) Skeleton eroding band (SEB): a worldwide distributed coral disease. 29th Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE), 10-12 September 2019, Ferrara, Italy
- 4) Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Voigt O, Seveso D, Saponari L, Montalbetti E, Dehnert I, Galli P A mesophotic hotel: the octocoral *Beryce grandicalyx* as a host. 29th Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE), 10-12 September 2019, Ferrara, Italy
- 5) Seveso D, Arrigoni R, **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Saponari L, Montalbetti E, Michael L Berumen, Orlandi, Vai M, Galli P (2019) Investigating the Heat shock protein response involved in coral bleaching across scleractinian species in the central Red Sea. 29th Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE), 10-12 September 2019, Ferrara, Italy
- 6) Montalbetti E, Saponari L, **Montano S**, Maggioni D, Dehnert I, Galli P, Seveso D New insights into the ecology and corallivory of *Culcita* spp. (Echinodermata: Asteroidea) in the Republic of Maldives. 29th Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE), 10-12 September 2019, Ferrara, Italy
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- 9) Maggioni D, Liguori G, Seveso D, Galli P, **Montano S** One pathogen one disease: shedding light on the Skeleton Eroding Band coral disease. 80th Congresso Nazionale Unione Zoologica Italiana (UZI), 23-26 September 2019, Roma, Italy
- 10) **Montano S**, Manca F, Caragnano A, Maggioni D, Seveso D, Pica D, Dehnert I, Galli P, Puce S. Footprints of coral symbiotic hydrozoans highlight the diversity of the *Zanlea*-scleractinians association. 80th Congresso Nazionale Unione Zoologica Italiana (UZI), 23-26 September 2019, Roma, Italy.
- 11) Manca F, Toshino S, Maggioni D, **Montano S**, Maronna MM, Reimer JD. A DNA-Barcoding catalogue of the hydrozoan fauna of Okinawa, Japan. 9<sup>th</sup> Workshop of Hydrozoan Society, 19-26 June, 2019, Shimoda, Japan
- 12) **Montano S**, Dehnert I, Seveso D, Moriarty T, Saponari L, Buck A, Galli P, Montoya Maya P (2018) Suitability of Maldivians lagoons for the restoration of the reef-building branching coral *Acropora muricata*. *Reef Future 2018*, 10-14 December 2018, Key Largo, Florida, USA

- 13) Maggioni D, Seveso D, Galli P, **Montano S** (2018) Integrative taxonomy, evolution, and ecology of symbiotic *Zancléida* (Hydrozoa, Capitata). *79th Congresso Nazionale Unione Zoologica Italiana (UZI)*, 25-28 September 2018, Lecce, Italy.
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- 25) Saponari L, Montalbetti E, Maggioni D, Fallati L, Seveso D, Galli P, **Montano S** (2017) Two-years monitoring of an *Acanthaster planci* outbreak in the central Maldives. *XXVII Congresso della Società Italiana di Ecologia (SITE)*, 12-15 September 2017, Napoli
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- 30) Luca Saponari, Enrico Montalbetti, Simone **Montano**, Davide Maggioni, Davide Seveso, Paolo Galli (2016) Ecological and behavioural traits of the crown-of-thorns starfish *Acanthaster planci* in an ongoing population outbreak in Ari Atoll, Republic of Maldives. *1° Congresso congiunto SITE-UZI-SIB, 30 Agosto-02 Settembre, Milano, Italia*
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