



The 9th International Bioerosion Workshop

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The 9th International Bioerosion Workshop (IBW) was held at the Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro (ISCR), Rome, Italy, 23rd to 27th October 2017. It was supported by the Italian Ministry for Culture and Art, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, European Commission, European Parliament and the UNESCO. In addition, the workshop was sponsored by 3D Research. The workshop was organised by Sandra Ricci (biologist of the ISCR), Barbara Davidde Petriaggi (director of the ISCR Underwater Archaeological Operations Unit), Carlotta Sacco Perasso (ISCR project collaborator) and Federica Antonelli (Ph.D. student at Tuscia University).

The First International Bioerosion Workshop was held in Bornholm, Denmark, in 1996, initiated and organised by Richard G. Bromley and Ulla Asgaard. Since the beginning, the purpose of the bioerosion workshops was to bring together scientists—from a variety of disciplines and from around the world—to share information on bioerosion in its diverse aspects. Few years later, it was again Richard G. Bromley, who in 2004 promoted a holistic approach in ichnology by coining the now classical phrase “One Ichnology!”. The Rome IBW acknowledged this attitude by bringing in yet another field of study—that is, Cultural Heritage. This interdisciplinary approach was reflected in the three main themes of the workshop, which are reflected also in this topical collection:

1. *Bioerosion of Natural and Artificial Substrates*
2. *Bioerosion and Cultural Heritage*

3. *Bioerosion in Palaeoecology, Palaeontology and Palaeoichnology*

More than 40 participants from 12 countries attended the workshop and presented 47 talks and posters (<http://www.9thbioerosionworkshop.com/program/>). The attendants had the opportunity to join an intra-workshop excursion at the National Archaeological Museum Grotta di Tiberio (Sperlonga, Latina, Italy) and a two-day post-workshop fieldtrip to the submerged archaeological Park of Baiae (Pozzuoli, Italy). This included the famous columns of the Jupiter temple in Pozzuoli near Napoli with traces of bioerosion, which inspired Charles Lyell to elaborate about sea level changes.

For the first time, the application of bioerosion studies to the conservation of artefacts and monuments from underwater or subaerial sites was presented in such an extensive way. During the sessions and the field trips, the participants had the opportunity to see, for instance, how marble artefacts underwent bioerosion in the sea by a plethora of biota.

At the closing session of the 9th IBW, the 10th edition of the Bioerosion Workshop Series was voted to take place in Paris, France, organised by Aline Tribollet.

This topical collection contains 15 peer reviewed papers largely based on presentations made at the 9th IBW. The guest editors are most thankful to FACIES editor-in-chief Axel Munnecke, and to the Springer associate editor Samuel Goodchild for providing the opportunity to publish this volume. Thanks are also due to the FACIES production team for their support. Last but not least, the editors would like to highly acknowledge all of the reviewers for their invaluable and critical comments on the submitted manuscripts.

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