

This article was downloaded by:

On: 15 January 2011

Access details: *Access Details: Free Access*

Publisher *Taylor & Francis*

Informa Ltd Registered in England and Wales Registered Number: 1072954 Registered office: Mortimer House, 37-41 Mortimer Street, London W1T 3JH, UK



## Chemistry and Ecology

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:

<http://www.informaworld.com/smpp/title~content=t713455114>

### Preface

Cesare Corselli<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Dept. of Geological Sciences & Geotechnologies, Milano-Bicocca University, Milano, Italy

**To cite this Article** Corselli, Cesare(2004) 'Preface', Chemistry and Ecology, 20: 3, 1 – 2

**To link to this Article:** DOI: 10.1080/02757540410001712923

**URL:** <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/02757540410001712923>

## PLEASE SCROLL DOWN FOR ARTICLE

Full terms and conditions of use: <http://www.informaworld.com/terms-and-conditions-of-access.pdf>

This article may be used for research, teaching and private study purposes. Any substantial or systematic reproduction, re-distribution, re-selling, loan or sub-licensing, systematic supply or distribution in any form to anyone is expressly forbidden.

The publisher does not give any warranty express or implied or make any representation that the contents will be complete or accurate or up to date. The accuracy of any instructions, formulae and drug doses should be independently verified with primary sources. The publisher shall not be liable for any loss, actions, claims, proceedings, demand or costs or damages whatsoever or howsoever caused arising directly or indirectly in connection with or arising out of the use of this material.

## PREFACE

In Italian marine science policy, the principal targets of CoNISMa (National Interuniversity Consortium for Marine Sciences) relate to supporting and coordinating the research activities of the Italian Universities at sea; stimulating the collaboration with other national and international institutions; and favouring the diffusion of scientific knowledge through conferences, workshops and congresses.

Every two years, as established in the Consortium Statute, CoNISMa, with the support of the Scientific Societies (A.I.O.L.—Italian Society of Oceanology and Limnology; S.I.B.M.—Italian Society of Marine Biology; S.It.E.—Italian Society of Ecology), organizes a National Congress to reveal the scientific activities of Italian researchers on particular, complex and novel aspects of the marine environment.

In the 1st Congress (Ischia Island, November 1998), participants focused their attention on *Diversity and Change*, and during the following Congress (Genova, November 2000), discussion focused on *Fluctuations—Anomalies—Recovery*.

In previous years, the scientific community has concentrated its efforts on evaluating, through a multidisciplinary approach, the ecological conditions at the boundaries of “normal” life: the so-called “extreme environments” represent the basis of understanding the adaptation strategies adopted by organisms to survive under harsh conditions; they also provide a good challenge for biotechnology, through the discovery of new species/genes, which can have potential applications in the chemical, pharmaceutical, and biotechnology industries.

CoNISMa organized the 3rd National Congress in Bari during November 2002, opening with a discussion on *Extreme Environments—Transitional Areas*. The topics addressed in the Congress were chosen to promote scientific contributions providing an opportunity to exchange ideas and results among researchers of different disciplines (physical oceanographers, chemists and geochemists, ecologists, microbiologists, etc.).

- In “Extreme Environments”, the behaviours of one or more analytical parameters differ significantly from those areas usually considered. Research on these environments can yield strange results, which can be useful also in understanding the structure and role of more accessible sites that we are used to considering as “normal environments”. With this meaning, among the most common examples, we define extreme environments as sites such as dark marine caves, marine polar environments, the deep sea (although this is the most widespread environment on Earth), and areas with hydrothermal vents.
- “Transition Areas” are of key importance in the coastal system. On the one hand, they provide important research tasks and opportunities within the field of marine ecology; on the other hand, because of their location, at the interface between land and sea, they represent the place where many scientific and technical/scientific problems arise, which also involve management planning. Such problems have to be considered in the light of the diversity and complexity of the various environmental conditions, and these problems

have to be solved, paying attention to the peculiar relationships between land and sea and between man and the environment.

The above summaries derive from an extensive interpretation of the most common definitions of such areas.

In 36 papers, selected after peer review, this volume presents the principal results of the four-day debate among more than 250 participants to the Congress. The staff of CoNISMa and the Department of Biology of Bari University contributed greatly to the success of the Congress. The assistance of the reviewers and the scientific staff is also gratefully acknowledged.

CESARE CORSELLI

*Dept. of Geological Sciences & Geotechnologies, Milano-Bicocca University  
Milano, Italy*