



## 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Group of European Charophytologists (GEC)

17-21 September 2018

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

### Second Circular



DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE E TECNOLOGIE  
BIOLOGICHE CHIMICHE E FARMACEUTICHE (STEBICEF)



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PALERMO

The 22<sup>nd</sup> GEC meeting will be organised by the Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies (STEBICEF) of the [University of Palermo](#), Italy, in collaboration with the CIRITA (Interdepartmental Research Centre on Technology-Environment Interaction) of the same University, and FORUM PLINIANUM onlus, a non-profit organisation.



**Organising Committee:** Angelo Troia, Rossella Barone, Anna Geraci, Riccardo Guarino, Anna Maria Mannino, Elisabetta Oddo, Rosario Schicchi  
**Scientific Committee:** Angelo Troia, Luigi Naselli-Flores, Susanne Claudia Schneider, Maria Antonia Rodrigo Alacreu

### PROGRAM:

**16 September (Sunday):** late afternoon: informal meeting in Palermo Old Town.

**17-18 September (Monday and Tuesday):** registration, oral and poster sessions at the Botanical Garden of the University of Palermo.

**19 September (Wednesday):** One-day field trip to “Lago Preola & Gorghetti Tondi” Nature Reserve (W Sicily), with charophytes collection; visit to the “Saline di Trapani e Paceco” Nature Reserve.

**20 September (Thursday):** University of Palermo, morning: identification of the charophytes collected in the field trip; after lunch: departure for the 2-day field trip to Nebrodi Mts Natural Park (NE Sicily); dinner and accommodation in a hotel in Cesarò, a small town in the heart of the Nebrodi Mts.

**21 September (Friday):** field trip to visit Nebrodi Mts Natural Park; visit to some small mountain lakes and ponds; packed lunch; back in Palermo at around 7 p.m.

## Registration fees for the meeting and the field trips:

### Meeting:

IRGC-Members: € 60

Non IRGC-Members: € 100

Students: € 40

These prices include conference material, coffee breaks and lunches (17-18/9), and conference dinner (18/9)

### Post-conference field-trip #1: € 60

(Lago Preola & Gorgi Tondi NR,  
Saline di Trapani & Paceco NR, 19/9)

This price includes transportation, written material, lunch in Lago Preola NR on 19/9 and lunch in Palermo on 20/9

### Post-conference field-trip #2: € 120

(Nebrodi Mts NP, 20-21/9)

This price includes transportation, written material, accommodation (B&B) in double rooms, dinner and packed lunch

### Methods of payment

Payment of conference fees in Euros (€) must accompany all registration forms. No registration will be confirmed until payment is received. Payment can be made by 1) bank transfer or 2) Paypal.

Note: Bank transfer costs must be covered by the attendees.

The fee does NOT include accommodation costs; please be sure that you have completed your hotel reservation. The registration fees do NOT include insurance of participants against accidents, sickness, cancellation, theft, property damage or loss; participants are advised to arrange adequate personal insurance, if needed.

1) **BANK TRANSFER** - The payment can be done to the following account number belonging to Forum Plinianum Onlus:

Bank: Banca Etica – BIC: CCRTIT2T84A – IBAN : IT82N0501803200000012319828

Account's holder: FORUM PLINIANUM INTERN ASS FORBIODIVERSITY

Account number: 000012319828

Please mention YOUR NAME and GEC22-PALERMO - and which field trip(s) if any.

2) **PAYPAL** - FORUM PLINIANUM ONLUS - INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR BIODIVERSITY AND SYSTEM ECOLOGY - PayPal Link: [paypal.me/ForumPlinianumOnlus](https://paypal.me/ForumPlinianumOnlus) - email: [forum.plinianum@gmail.com](mailto:forum.plinianum@gmail.com)

Please mention YOUR NAME and GEC22-PALERMO - and which field trip(s) if any.

Note: Payments made through Paypal must add 10% extra to cover Paypal transfer costs. This means that a €100 payment becomes €110 through Paypal.

### IMPORTANT DATE:

**30 June 2018**

Deadline for final registration **AND** abstract submission

Please send by e-mail to Angelo Troia your registration form, proof of payment and abstract: [angelo.troia@unipa.it](mailto:angelo.troia@unipa.it) (+39 091 23891260)

**INFORMAL “icebreaking” MEETING** 16 September (Sunday) ca. 19:30

Meeting Place will be communicated to all participants by e-mail.

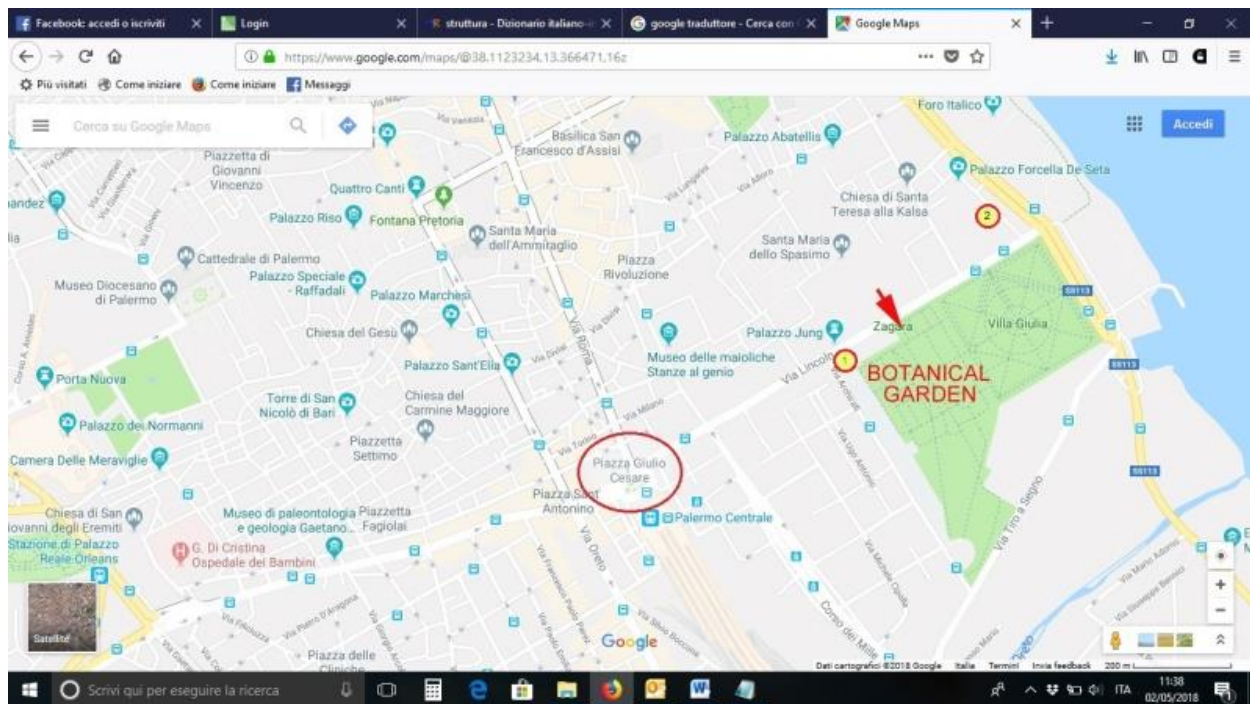
We will have a light dinner together, spending some time in a typical restaurant/bar in the city centre.

**CONFERENCE VENUE**

The lectures and poster presentations will be held in the [Botanical Garden](#) of the University of Palermo (address: via Lincoln 2, Palermo).



## **HOW TO REACH THE VENUE BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT**



Location of the Palermo Botanical Garden with its entrance (arrow); (1) Hotel Villa Archirafi; (2) NH Hotel. - “Piazza Giulio Cesare” (in front of the Main Railway Station, “Stazione Centrale”) is the terminus of the bus-shuttle from/to the Palermo Airport (PMO) (see <http://www.prestiaecomande.it/>).

We hope you will stay in a hotel/b&b near the Botanical Garden, so that you can walk to visit the city and attend the Meeting.

## **REGISTRATION DESK AND LECTURE ROOM**

The registration desk will be located in the “Sala Lanza”, in a building near the entrance of the Garden, where lectures and poster presentations will be held too.



**GUIDED TOUR** 17 Sep. (Monday) ca. 18:30

An optional guided tour of the historical centre of the city is scheduled.

**CONFERENCE DINNER** 18 Sep. (Tuesday) 20:30

The conference dinner will be served in a restaurant in the city centre (it is included in the meeting registration fee).

**CHAROPHYTE IDENTIFICATION** 20 Sep. (Thursday) 10:00-12:45

After the first field trip, the charophyte identification session will be held in one of the laboratories of the Department, in the building of the former Botanical Institute and/or an extra lab. Binocular microscopes and identification keys will be available.

## About Palermo

Palermo is the capital of the Italian autonomous region of Sicily and one of the most important cities in the Mediterranean Basin. Palermo was established by the Phoenicians in the 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C., nearly 3,000 years ago. Since then it has enjoyed an immensely colourful history being occupied or influenced in turn by the Greeks, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Arabs, the Normans, the Swabians (Friedrich II's tomb is in the Cathedral of Palermo), the Spanish, the Austrians and finally the Bourbons. These many influences have helped to create a truly cosmopolitan culture which is reflected in the art, architecture, music and cuisine of Palermo and Sicily in general. In 2015 [Arab-Norman Palermo](#) has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

Recently, "The Guardian" included Palermo in the hotlist of the places "[Where to go on holiday in 2018](#)": "The Sicilian capital may have been named **Italy's capital of culture for 2018** but its credentials as a cultural melting pot stretch back almost a millennium. A memorial stone on display in the city's Moorish Zisa palace records the interment of a noble lady's remains in four languages: Latin, Greek, Arabic and Hebrew. Such openness to other traditions is typical of this city, often referred to as a mosaic – a pattern weaving in Spanish, Norman, Bourbon and British influences, too".

Palermo is fifth in the list of the "top ten cities for street food". The uniqueness of street food from Palermo lies not only in its variety and goodness, but also in the ability that every dish has to tell a historical chapter of the Sicilian capital (<http://www.streaty.com/#palermo>).



## How to get to Palermo

The main and easiest way to get to Palermo is by plane:

Palermo has an international airport called "[Aeroporto Falcone Borsellino](#)" or Aeroporto di Palermo (PMO). It is located 35 km (to the west) from the city and is connected to the city centre by taxi and by public transports (a very convenient bus service connects the airport to the city centre every 30 minutes: [www.prestiaecomande.it](http://www.prestiaecomande.it)).

A possible alternative is the Airport "[Vincenzo Florio](#)" of Trapani Birgi, which is about 112 km west from Palermo. You may consider, as well, to fly to the international Airport "[Vincenzo Bellini](#)" of Catania, which is about 200 km east from Palermo. These two airports are connected to Palermo by a bus service.

## How safe is Palermo?

You might be happy to know that Palermo isn't really any different from any other major city. Just be careful as you would in any other large city in the world. Please, take care of your personal belongings (including cameras) do not wear showy jewels and, preferably, form groups of 3-5 people (or more) to explore the city. If you're going out at night, avoid dark, lightly travelled streets, just as in any large metropolitan area. When riding the city buses in Palermo, be aware of pickpockets.

## Public transportation in Palermo

Apart from the shuttle/bus from/to airport ([www.prestiaecomande.it](http://www.prestiaecomande.it)), public transportation in Palermo is not particularly reliable: there is an urban train (called "metro") crossing the city from North to South, running every half hour, with few stations. It connects, for example, the Stazione Centrale with the Norman Palace and Piazza Indipendenza (Palazzo Reale/Orleans stop). Tickets must be bought at the station (1.50 euros for a one-way ticket), validated, and are not valid on buses. Urban buses, operated by AMAT (<http://amat.pa.it/>), are not usually on time, and are often overcrowded. The most reliable line is the bus "101", crossing the city from South (Stazione Centrale) to North (Stadium). Tickets can be purchased at AMAT kiosks (Piazza Ruggero Séttimo and Stazione Centrale) and at the "Tabacchi", or tobacco stores. Drivers will not check your tickets, but tickets must be validated on the bus. One-way ticket costs 1.40 euro (€1.80 on board the bus), and it is valid for 90 minutes; one-day ticket costs 3.50 euro. Taxis are expensive in Palermo (about 15-25 euros for within town rides, 35-45 euros to/from airport), and heavy traffic can make matters worse. Official taxis should have a tassametro (meter), which records the fare; check for this before embarking. You'll need to phone ahead for a taxi or wait at one of the taxi ranks at major travel hubs such as the train station, Piazza Politeama, Teatro Massimo and Piazza Indipendenza.

## Additional information

### Currency

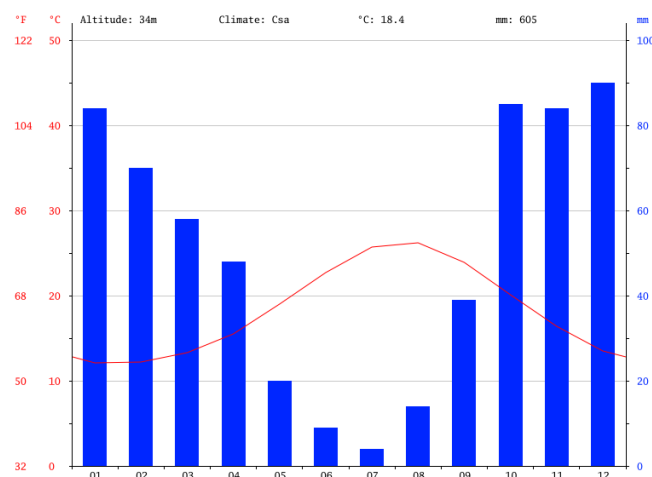
The currency in Italy is Euros. Credit cards are widely accepted, ATMs are widely available throughout the city.

### Passport and Visa

All the members of the European Union, the European Economic Area and holders of the "Schengen agreement" do not need a visa. If you're not a citizen of the listed structures or you are not sure if you need a visa, please contact the Italian Embassy or Consulate in your country.

### Weather

Palermo has a Mediterranean climate with mild (rainy) winters and warm and sunny summers. The weather is usually nice in September: Av. Temperature 25°C - Min. Temperature 22°C - Max. Temperature 27°C; Sunshine Hours 8 hrs/day - Av. rainfall 40mm - Rainfall days: 9 - Sea Temperature 25°C.



Average temperatures and rainfall in Palermo.

## Accommodations in Palermo for GEC22

We prepared a list of possible accommodations near the Botanical Garden during the GEC22.

Of course you can see hotels, B&Bs etc. via the internet, check and compare also through AirBnB, booking.com, tripadvisor, trivago, etc., to choose the one that better fits your budget, your needs, etc.

Here we are suggesting two hotels and several small options (B&Bs). Consider that in any case you have to add a "City Tax" (usually 1,5 euros/night; 2 euros/night for the NH Hotel).

**If you decide to contact one of the following hotels/b&bs, please mention you will be in Palermo for the "GEC Meeting / University of Palermo" (in most cases you will have special prices).**

### Hotel Villa Archirafi \*\*

Via Lincoln 30, 90123 Palermo - tel. +39 0916168827 - email: villaarchirafi@libero.it

<http://www.villaarchirafi.com/>

Only if you make reservation directly through the hotel, making reference to the "GEC" Meeting, you will have a 10% discount on the following prices:

Prices (B&B per night): single 60 euro, double 75 euro, triple 90 euro, quadruple 110 euro.

### NH Hotel - Palermo \*\*\*\*

Foro Italico 90133 Palermo - Tel.: +39 0916165090 - Reservations: +39 0287368144 - email:

[nhpalermo@nh-hotels.com](mailto:nhpalermo@nh-hotels.com)

<https://www.nh-hotels.com/hotel/nh-palermo>

If you make reservation directly through the hotel\*, making reference to the "GEC" Meeting, **by 30 June 2018**, you will have the following prices:

Prices (B&B): single 139 euro, double 149 euro.

\*Please follow this link:

<https://www.nh-hotels.com/event/universita-degli-studi-di-palermo>

### B&Bs

There are a lot of B&Bs in the town, here we offer a list of suggestions.

**BB quattrocanti** ([www.quattrocanti.it](http://www.quattrocanti.it)) - (B&B per night): double 60 euros; double for single use 50 euros; private bathroom; 2<sup>nd</sup> floor without elevator.

**BB Palazzo Torre** ([www.palazzotorrebb.it](http://www.palazzotorrebb.it)) - (B&B per night): double 70 euros; double for single use 65 euros; private bathroom; 3<sup>rd</sup> floor without elevator. If you make reservation directly through the B&B, making reference to the "GEC" Meeting, you will have the prices mentioned above.

**Khalisah Apartments** - [www.khalisah.it](http://www.khalisah.it) - (B&B per night): double 75 euros; double for single use 60 euros; single 50 euros; private bathroom.

**Casa Gelsomina** - [www.casagelsomina.it](http://www.casagelsomina.it) - 2 people 70 euros; 3 people 80 euros; 4 people 90 euros; Breakfast not included (available on request); +20 euros "cleaning fee".

**B&B Labellaballarò** - [www.facebook.com/bblabellaballaro](https://www.facebook.com/bblabellaballaro) - <https://bblabellaballaro.wixsite.com/bbpalermocentro> - (B&B per night): double 50 euros; double for single use 45 euros; private bathroom.

**MAD BB** - [www.madinballaro.com](http://www.madinballaro.com) - double 70 euros; double for single use 50 euros.

**BB Le Pomelie** - [www.lepomelie.com](http://www.lepomelie.com) - (B&B per night): triple 85 euros; double 60 euros; double for single use 50 euros; single 40 euros; private bathroom.

**Allegretto Palermo** - [www.allegrettopalermo.com](http://www.allegrettopalermo.com) - double for single use 40 euros; Breakfast not included.

**BB Calanotte** - [www.calanotte.com](http://www.calanotte.com) - (B&B per night): double 50 euros; double for single use 40 euros; private bathroom.

**B&B Kasa Kala** - <https://www.kasakala.it/> - double 65 euros; double for single use 50 euros; use of the kitchen included; 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors without elevator.

## Instructions for abstracts

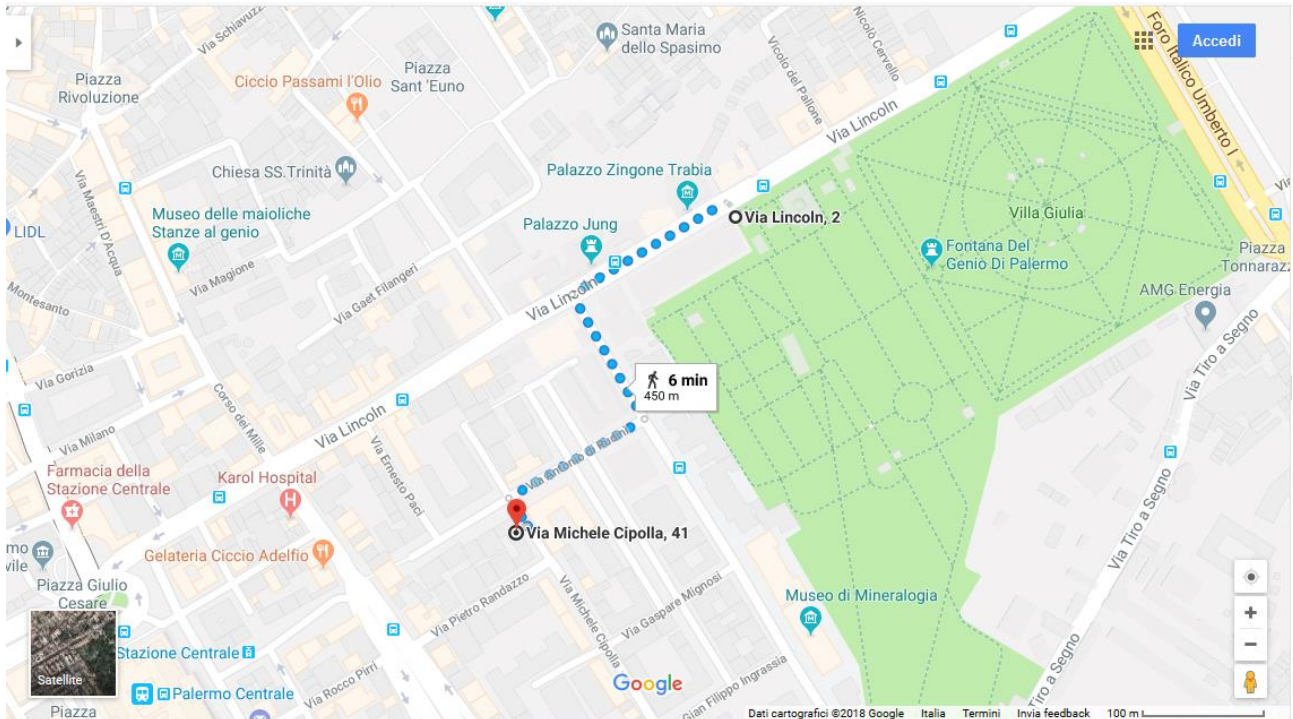
See instructions and template in the registration file.

## Poster dimensions

The poster holders will have vertical orientation, so prepare your poster in a vertical format, for example: 70 x 100 cm (width x length).

## TO PRINT YOUR POSTER

The organisers will not print your posters on demand, but if you do not want to carry them you can print them in Palermo. The nearest copy & print service is just 450 m away from the Botanical Garden.



## Post-conference Excursions

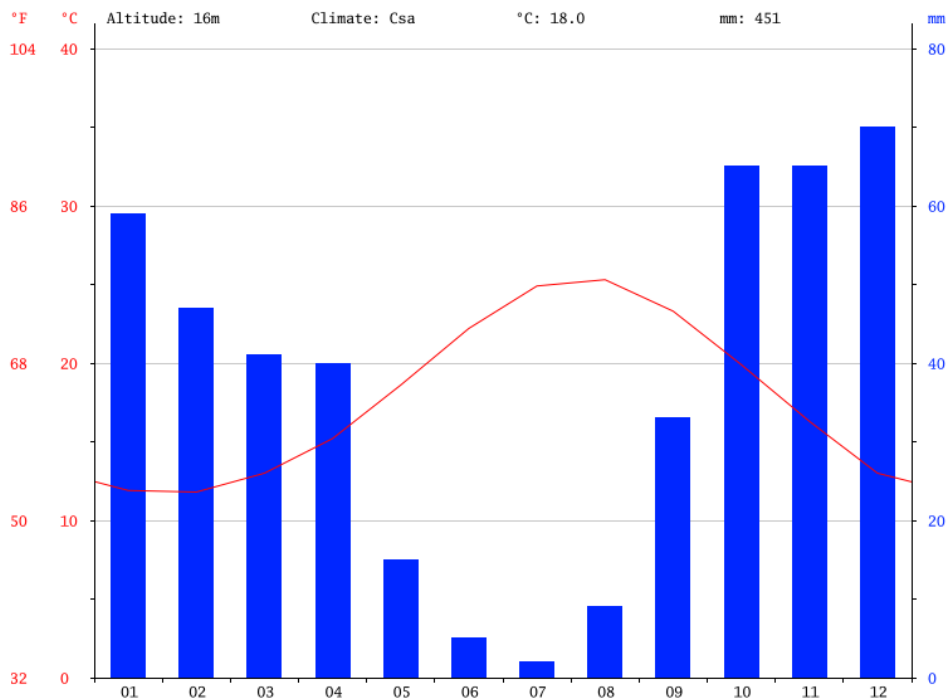
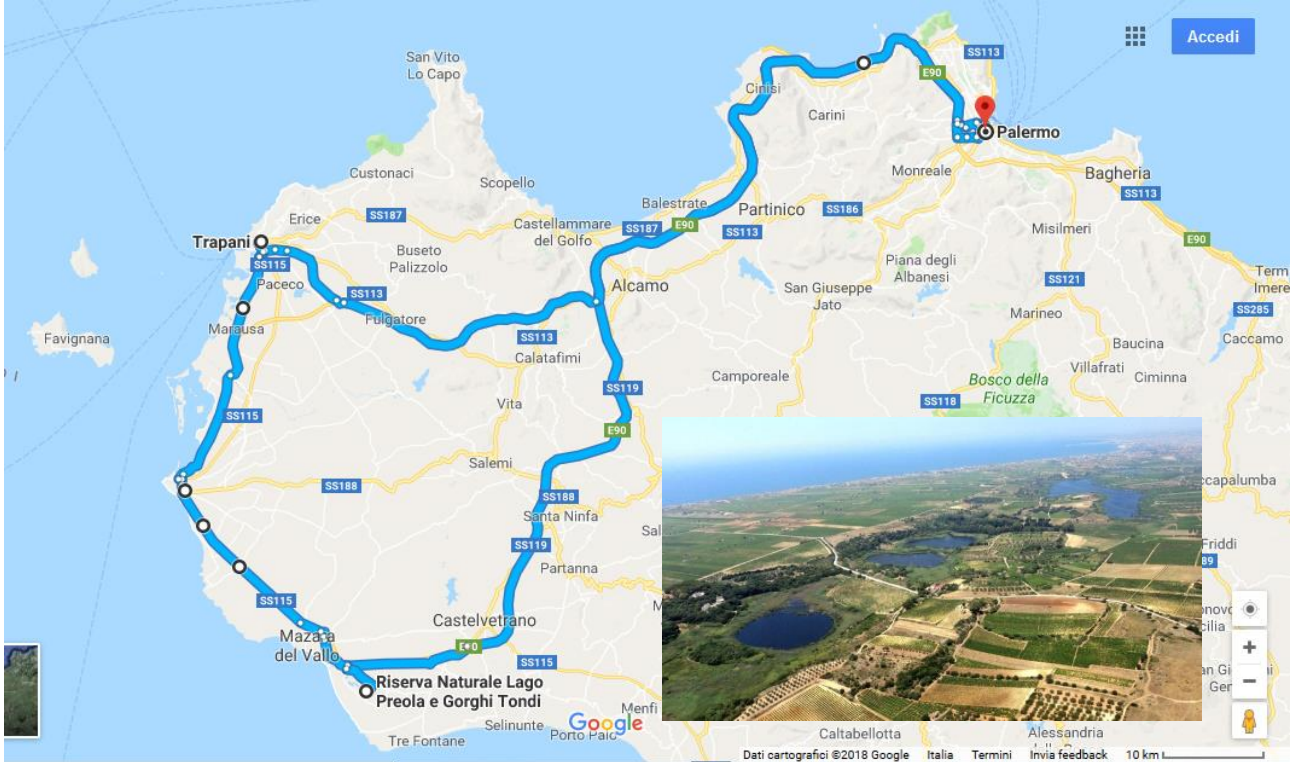
For the excursions, please bring with you trekking shoes, windbreaker, sun-protection cream and sun hat. The temperatures can range between 20 and 38 °C, with little probability of rain but high probability of winds.

The technical difficulty of the hikes is not the same: Excursion nr.1 is easier and shorter; Excursion nr.2 can be longer but we will arrange it in such a way that each participant can adapt the trip to his/her own needs. All the excursions are on hiking trails and cross terrain with exposed rock faces, where falls are possible. Be prepared to spend the whole day outside, including many hours in very sunny places (especially for Excursion nr.1), occasionally windy. Detailed information will be given before each excursion.



## Post-conference Excursion nr. 1

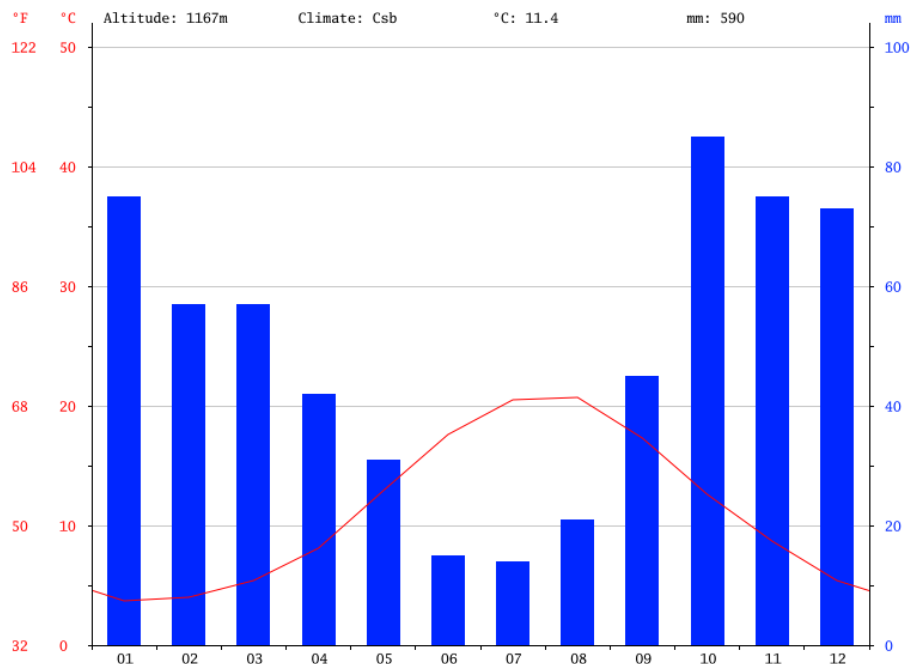
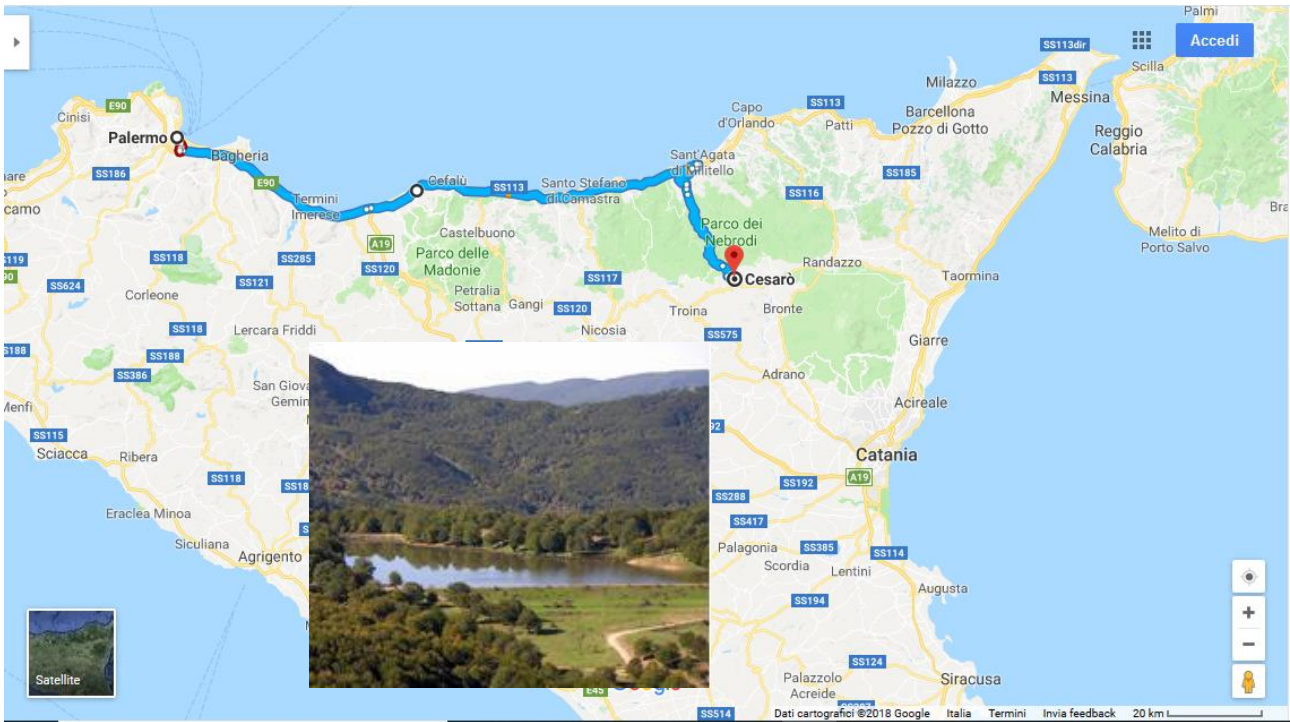
Presentations will be followed by a one day field trip (19/9) with charophytes collection. The excursion is planned in the [Nature Reserve “Lago Preola e Gorghi Tondi”](#) (Trapani province, W-Sicily), an interesting karst area with several small lakes not far from the coast. After lunch (including a visit in a winery) we will visit another important [Nature Reserve: Saline di Trapani e Paceco](#), with the last active saltworks in Sicily. Charophytes determination will be arranged (20/9) in one of the laboratories of our Department. The price (60 euros) includes transportation by rented coach, written material, lunch in Lago Preola NR on 19/9 and lunch in Palermo on 20/9.



Average temperatures and rainfall in Mazara del Vallo (near NR “Lago Preola e Gorghi Tondi”)

## Post-conference Excursion nr. 2

In the second field trip to the [Nebrodi Mountains Regional Park](#) (NE-Sicily), we will visit a small mountain lake in one of the most forested area of the island, a beech woodland at about 1400 m a.s.l. (about 150 km from Palermo). We shall leave Palermo on Thursday 20 in the afternoon and spend one night in a hotel located within the Regional Park. On Friday 21, after the field trip, we will drive back to Palermo (arrival to Palermo approx. 19:00). The price (120 euros) includes transportation by rented coach, written material, accommodation (B&B) in double rooms, dinner and packed lunch.



Average temperatures and rainfall in Cesarò (Nebrodi Natural Park)

If you have any questions or need further information, please feel free to contact  
Angelo Troia: [angelo.troia@unipa.it](mailto:angelo.troia@unipa.it) (+39 091 23891260)

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU IN PALERMO!**

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