



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

17-20 September 2018

Palermo, Sicily, Italy

### First Circular



Organised by

*Dipartimento STEBICEF - Università degli Studi di Palermo*

in collaboration with: *CIRITA - Università degli Studi di Palermo*

**Organizing 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

### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM:

**16 September (Sunday):** 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.

**19-20 September (Wednesday and Thursday):** 1-day field trip to “Lago Preola & Gorgi Tondi” Nature Reserve (W Sicily), charophytes collection and (in the next day) determination at the University of Palermo.

**20-21 September (Thursday and Friday):** a second field trip to Nebrodi Mts (NE Sicily) could be organized depending on the interest of the participants.

**Registration fees for the meeting** (field trips not included):

IRGC-Members: 60 €

Non IRGC-Members: 100 €

Students: 40 €

These prices include conference material, coffee breaks and lunches, and conference dinner

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**10 April 2018**

Deadline for pre-registration. It will help us to estimate the cost of the field trips

**15 June 2018**

Deadline for final registration **AND** abstract submission

**CONTACT PERSON:** Please send pre-registration by e-mail to Angelo Troia:  
[angelo.troia@unipa.it](mailto:angelo.troia@unipa.it) (+39 091 23891260)

The 22nd GEC meeting will be organised by the Department STEBICEF (Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies) of the [University of Palermo](#), in collaboration with the CIRITA (Interdepartmental Research Center on Technology-Environment Interaction) of the same University. The lectures and poster presentations will be held in the [Botanical Garden](#) which belongs to the same University (address: via Lincoln 2, Palermo - details of how to reach the venue will be provided in the second circular).

### **Post-conference field trip 1**

Presentations will be followed by a one day field trip with charophytes collection and identification on the next day. 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. Charophytes determination will be arranged in one of the laboratories of our Department. Costs of the field trip are depending on the number of participants and will be given in the next circular. Thus, your pre-registration will help us in estimating the costs, which are expected not to exceed 60 € (including lunch).

### **Post-conference field trip 2**

A second field trip to the Nebrodi Mountains (a Regional Park in NE-Sicily) could be organized depending on the interest of the participants. In detail, we should visit a small mountain lake in the most forested area of the island, in a beech-forest at about 1400 m a.s.l. (about 150 km from Palermo). We should leave Palermo on Thursday 20 in the afternoon and spend one night in the Park. On Friday 21, after the field trip, we will drive back to Palermo (arrival to Palermo approx. 18:00). The price for this second field trip will be also given in the next circular; we will try to keep it below 120 € (incl. transports, dinner, night and packed lunch).

### **About Palermo**

Palermo is the capital of the Italian autonomous region of Sicily and one of the most important cities in the Mediterranean. 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 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".

### **How to get to Palermo**

The main 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 centre and is connected to the city centre by taxi and by public transports (buses every 30 minutes).

Another 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.

## Additional information

Details on how to reach the conference venue, on the hotels etc. will be given in the second circular.

### 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.

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

