

Symposium 14

Public outreach and citizen science

Conveners

Domenico D'Alelio, Silvia Angles

Key-note speakers

Juliet Brodie, Natural History Museum, London, U.K.

Symposium description

Algae act as invisible engines of our Planet, which is presently under risk. They can also boost a flourishing industry, providing humans with food and other secondary resources. Finally, they play a negative role by exacerbating the environmental conditions of anthropogenically impacted aquatic systems. Owing to the 'hidden' centrality of algae in our societies, communication – i.e., translating sectorial knowledge to the general and non-expert public – is a crucial task. Phycologists should intensify efforts to spread algal literacy within public contexts, which are technology-driven, but extremely prone to scientific misconceptions at the same time. This symposium calls for science communication attempts on the algae world that aim at filling crucial knowledge gaps. Both 'simple' institutional dissemination and more elaborated outreach projects are welcome; exercises, engaging citizens with the spreading of knowledge and/or participating in topical researches, are highly desirable.

