

Curriculum Vitae

Laura Loru

Laura Loru has been working as a permanent researcher since 2011. In 1999 she got her MS in Biological Sciences, Department of Zoology and Biological Antropology, University of Sassari.

In 2006 she got her PhD in “Monitoring and Control of forest Ecosystems in mediterranean Environment” Department of Plant Protection, University of Sassari.

At the beginning of her research activity she got involved in studying freshwater macro zoo-benthos of both lotic and lentic ecosystems. She has competence in macrozoobenthos sampling and evaluation of ecological quality of water by mean of both Extended biotic index (EBI) and STAR_ICMI index according to the Water Framework Directive (WDF) 2.000/60/EC.

Afterwards her research activity concerned the laboratory study of the interactions between Neuroptera Chrysopidae and microbiological bioinsecticides in the project “Impact of transgenic mais expressing *Bacillus thuringiensis* toxins (Bt corn) on phytophagous and natural enemies”.

During this research it has been developed an oral administration technique of microbiological insecticides; a method to anaesthetize insects in laboratory practices and an individual marking technique for adult to monitor sub-lethal effects on individuals treated in the larval stage.

During her Research Doctorate she collaborated to the national project CO.RI.BIO.: “Research on hazelnut to obtain high quality biological production” financed by Mi.P.A.A.F.. In particular she got involved in the “Management of pests of the hazelnut orchard in Sardinia” studying the hazelnut arthropod biodiversity, focusing on generalist predators, particularly on Heteroptera.

Since 2005 she has been studying the biodiversity of the Hemiptera Heteroptera (true bugs). She started her true bug-experience exploiting the high professional skills present at the Di.Va:P.R.A. of the Agriculture Faculty of Turin during a six month stage. Then she got involved in the identification of a number of specimen collected during the last decade in a variety of sardinian natural and agricultural ecosystems.

Currently she is involved in the biological control of the chestnut Oriental gallwasp *Driocosmus kuriphilus* monitoring both pest diffusion and native and introduced parasitoid behavior.