

Theme 6 Biodiversity and Global Change

15.00-15.20 (O-05) Characterization of subtidal benthic communities in the Azores – a numerical approach – methodologies for oceanic islands.

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The increasing importance of coastal management creates the need for a systematic classification and characterization of marine communities. In the Azores, however, available information is fragmented and mainly descriptive. Methodologies for identifying and quantifying algal-based communities have been developed for the island of São Miguel. Habitat classification criteria (substratum, wave exposure and depth) were associated with the quantitative information for biotic communities and thus, biotopes identified. These were then mapped according to habitat coverage. This work appears to be applicable to all oceanic islands. It represents a quantitative approach to ecosystem characterization, based on well-defined field work experimental design, and a pre-established multivariate approach to data treatment. Following these methodologies, a first classification and description of Azorean biotopes is established. Depth and substratum stability were found to be the main structuring factors, whereas geographical location on the island was not related to major differences between communities. The results obtained will provide the tools for assessment of areas sensitive to human activity and background knowledge for coastal management. Further work, aimed at generalizing methodologies across oceanic islands, is in progress following guidelines that have been widely used for the UK and mainland Europe.

15.20-15.40. (O-07) The Clare Island Survey of 1909-1911: a multidisciplinary success.

Collins, Timothy

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The multidisciplinary nature of the Survey, with input from amateur naturalists and professional researchers, using the resources of government departments, with the backing of other institutions such as learned societies and amateur naturalists' field clubs, is assessed. The special place occupied by the Royal Irish Academy in fostering such research is noted. The publication of the results comprising 67 reports, in a special three-section volume of the *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, under the editorship of Robert Lloyd Praeger, is detailed and the results commented on. In total, 3,219 species of plants were listed, 585 new to Ireland and 11 new to science, while 5,269 species of animals were noted, 1,253 new to Ireland and 109 new to science. With the publication of the final reports in 1915, a chapter of Irish natural history came to a close, and nothing on quite the same scale was attempted in Ireland for many decades. In 1991, the New Survey of Clare Island was formally launched by the Royal Irish Academy. To date twenty six separate studies have been carried out on the flora, fauna and archaeology of Clare Island, using the original Survey results as a baseline. Three volumes of results have so far been published on the history of the original Survey, the geology and intertidal zoology with a fourth volume on archaeology expected later this year.

15.40-16.00 VACANT

Stands 21- 32:

STAND 21 (P08) INTERREG III
Development of a f

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ATLANTICO is a co-financed project of the Atlantic Islands of the Canary Islands, the Azores and Madeira. One of the partners is responsible for the Madeira component is the Madeira Autonomous Region (Região Autónoma da Madeira). This project will support the development of a powerful tool that will allow the management of natural resources. The databases provide the maximum amount of information on taxonomy classification, geographical distribution, habitats, cartography data, etc.

STAND 22 (P10) Biogeography
from Madeira and

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Investigations on the parasites of the helminth fauna is very rich and includes Nematoda, Acanthocephala and morphological characterization of some of the host-parasite dynamics of some of the host-parasite zoogeography of host-parasite studies, namely to analyse the identification of fish stocks. In parasites from Madeira and its biogeography of those parasites fauna of chub mackerel of *M. kuhnia scombri* (Monogenea), *Scolex pleuronectes* (Digenea), *Scolex pleuronectes*. Differences were found in the distribution of *Contracaecum* sp. in Madeira and its absence in the Atlantic, while in Madeira the mackerel from the SW Atlantic observed in chub mackerel from



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Symposium Programme & Abstracts



*Atlantic Island Ecosystems
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