



Unione  
Zoologica  
Italiana





# Unione Zoologica Italiana onlus

## ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

### Introduction

The Unione Zoologica Italiana (UZI) is one of the oldest scientific Italian societies. It was officially founded on April 22th, 1900, at the University of Pavia on the occasion of the first national congress of zoology (Fig. 1). Its primary goals are to promote studies in the various fields of zoology, facilitate scientific interactions among zoologists, support research and teaching in zoology, and care for protection of the Italian fauna.

Currently, UZI counts about 400 members the vast majority of which from universities but also secondary school teachers, freelance professionals and amateurs (<http://www.uzionlus.it/>). Two permanent UZI ad-hoc committees are responsible for questions inherent teaching zoological disciplines (the 'Commissione Didattica'), and questions inherent environment and fauna conservation and management (the 'Commissione Fauna').

UZI delegates operate in governmental and regional committees as well as local administrations of protected areas and natural parks taking care, in particular, of problems relevant to applied zoology and ecology. UZI is an official member of the 'Federazione Italiana di Scienze della Natura e dell'Ambiente' ([fisna.it](http://www.fisna.it)), 'Federazione Italiana delle Società Biologiche' ([fisbi.it](http://www.fisbi.it)), and 'International Union for Conservation and Nature' (<https://www.iucn.org/>).

### Editorial activities

Since 1930, UZI publishes its own quarterly scientific journal. The journal original name, 'Bollettino di Zoologia', was changed, in 1996, to 'The Italian Journal of Zoology' which, in 2017, was in turn changed to 'The European Zoological Journal', becoming an open-access journal edited by Taylor & Francis. The journal is open to contributions on every aspect of animal and protozoan biology, both basic or applied and spanning from the molecular to the organismic and eco-system levels ([www.tandfonline.com/loi/tizo20](http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tizo20)).

In 1987, UZI started publishing two sets of volumes under the name of 'Collane UZI'. One set (two volumes) has been dedicated to "Problemi di Biologia e di Storia della Natura, and the second (eight volumes) to 'Selected Symposia and Monographs'.

Together with the 'Accademia Nazionale Italiana di Entomologia' ([www.accademiaentomologia.it/](http://www.accademiaentomologia.it/)), UZI boosted the 'Comitato Scientifico per la Fauna Italiana' (CSFI) which is charged to schedule, organize and peer-review a series of monographies, collectively named 'Fauna d'Italia' each focused on an animal taxon widely distributed in Italy. To date, 51 volumes of Fauna d'Italia have been published and others are in press and in preparation. CSFI ([www.comitato.faunaitalia.it/](http://www.comitato.faunaitalia.it/)) is responsible also for the organization and oversight of other editorial activities. Among these: the 'Checklist della Fauna Italiana' (1993–1995) edited by Minelli, Ruffo and La Posta, that provides the first complete inventory of the national fauna, and the 'Checklist e distribuzione della fauna italiana' (2005), edited by Ruffo and Stoch, dedicated to

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index the distribution of the Italian fauna. Both these checklists have been completed in collaboration with the ‘Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare’ ([www.minambiente.it/](http://www.minambiente.it/)), the ‘Museo Civico di Storia Naturale’ of Verona (<https://museodistorianaturale.comune.verona.it/>), and the ‘Dipartimento di Biologia’ of the University of Calabria in Cosenza ([www.unical.it/](http://www.unical.it/)).

## **Congresses, Schools and Workshops**

Every year, UZI organizes a national congress articulated on symposia aimed at providing an updated picture on themes that are chosen in collaboration between the UZI directive committee and the local organizing committee. Seventy-eight congresses have been held to date. The last two have been organized jointly with other scientific societies: the 77<sup>th</sup> congress at the University La Bicocca of Milan jointly with the ‘Società Italiana di Ecologia’ ([www.ecologia.it](http://www.ecologia.it)) and ‘Società Italiana di Biogeografia’ ([biogeografia.uniroma2.it/](http://biogeografia.uniroma2.it/)) and the 78<sup>th</sup> one at the University of Turin jointly with the Société Zoologique de France ([www.societe-zoologique.fr/](http://www.societe-zoologique.fr/)). To stimulate and promote the participation of young people, in addition to offering markedly reduced subscription fares, UZI grants awards for a selected panel of posters and presentations offered by participants without a permanent position.

On May from 2011 to 2014, UZI, with a logistic support from the ‘Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti’ ([www.istitutoveneto.it/](http://www.istitutoveneto.it/)), organized a one-week ‘Spring School’ aimed to give young researchers the opportunity to update their knowledge on theoretical aspects and experimental procedures in a varied array of zoological themes introduced by internationally qualified experts. The 1<sup>st</sup> Spring School was centred on ‘How to measure and preserve biodiversity’, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one on the ‘Development of the Nervous System’, the 3<sup>rd</sup> one on ‘Metazoan Phylogeny and Evolution, and the 4<sup>th</sup> one on ‘Population Biology and Genetics’.

On December 2011, at the University of Modena & Reggio Emilia (<https://www.unimore.it/>), and jointly with the ‘Società Italiana di Biologia Evoluzionistica’ ([www.sibe-iseb.it/](http://www.sibe-iseb.it/)) and ‘Società Botanica Italiana’ ([www.societabotanicaitaliana.it](http://www.societabotanicaitaliana.it)), UZI organized a workshop on “DNA barcoding: which future and applications in Italy?” with the scope of carrying out a comparative analysis of results from different animal taxa and creating a network among the research groups interested in this field in Italy.

## **Actions to save biodiversity and nature**

In the period 1995–2000, through its ‘Commissione Fauna’ and in collaboration with a number of universities, UZI was widely involved in the ‘Progetto Bio-Italy’ promoted by the ‘Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare’ to identify the ‘Rete Natura 2000’ in Italy on the basis of the EU Directory 92/43 ‘Habitat’. In collaboration with the ‘Società Botanica Italiana’, more than 200 sites of community interest have been identified. Together with national parks and other protected areas, they represent the backbone for the conservation of biodiversity in Italy.

In 2005, UZI joined the ‘Dipartimento di Biologia animale e Ecologia Marina’ of the University of Messina ([www.unime.it/](http://www.unime.it/)) to promote a working protocol (relevant to conventions signed with the ‘Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare’) directed to monitor the conservation status of habitats and species (according to the directory 92/43 of the ‘Comunità Economica Europea’ directed to update the data bank ‘Natura 2000’), and to define the ‘Red List’ of invertebrates and vertebrates of the Italian fauna.

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In 2009, UZI signed a three-year convention with the ‘Regione Molise’ ([www.regione.molise.it/](http://www.regione.molise.it/)) directed to carry out faunistic surveys necessary to draw up plans for the management of ten sites ‘Natura 2000’. The results that have been obtained include an updated list of the fauna occurring at those sites, a documentation of the threats and suggestions for its conservation and management. In the period 2013–2016, UZI was deeply involved in collaborating with the ‘Ministero dell’Ambiente e della Tutela del Territorio e del Mare’ to monitor and save strictly protected species of the Italian wildlife. The results of these activities appeared in several publications and have been discussed in workshops and seminars at the ‘Dipartimento di Biologia e Biotecnologie, C. Darwin’ of the University La Sapienza of Rome ([www.uniroma1.it/](http://www.uniroma1.it/)), and at structures of the ‘Parco Nazionale di Abruzzo, Lazio e Molise’ ([www.parcoabruzzo.it/](http://www.parcoabruzzo.it/)) with which UZI collaborates for the conservation of the local population of brown bear (*Ursus arctos marsicanus*).

Starting from 2013, UZI collaborates with the ‘Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale’ ([isprambiente.gov.it/](http://isprambiente.gov.it/)) to update the database of alien species in Italy and make operative a national strategy for the preservation of biodiversity.

Curated by Marzio Zapparoli, Roberto Bertolani ed Elvira De Matthaeis  
(covers by Giuseppe d’Errico)  
Translation by Pierangelo Luporini

Rome 20 February 2018

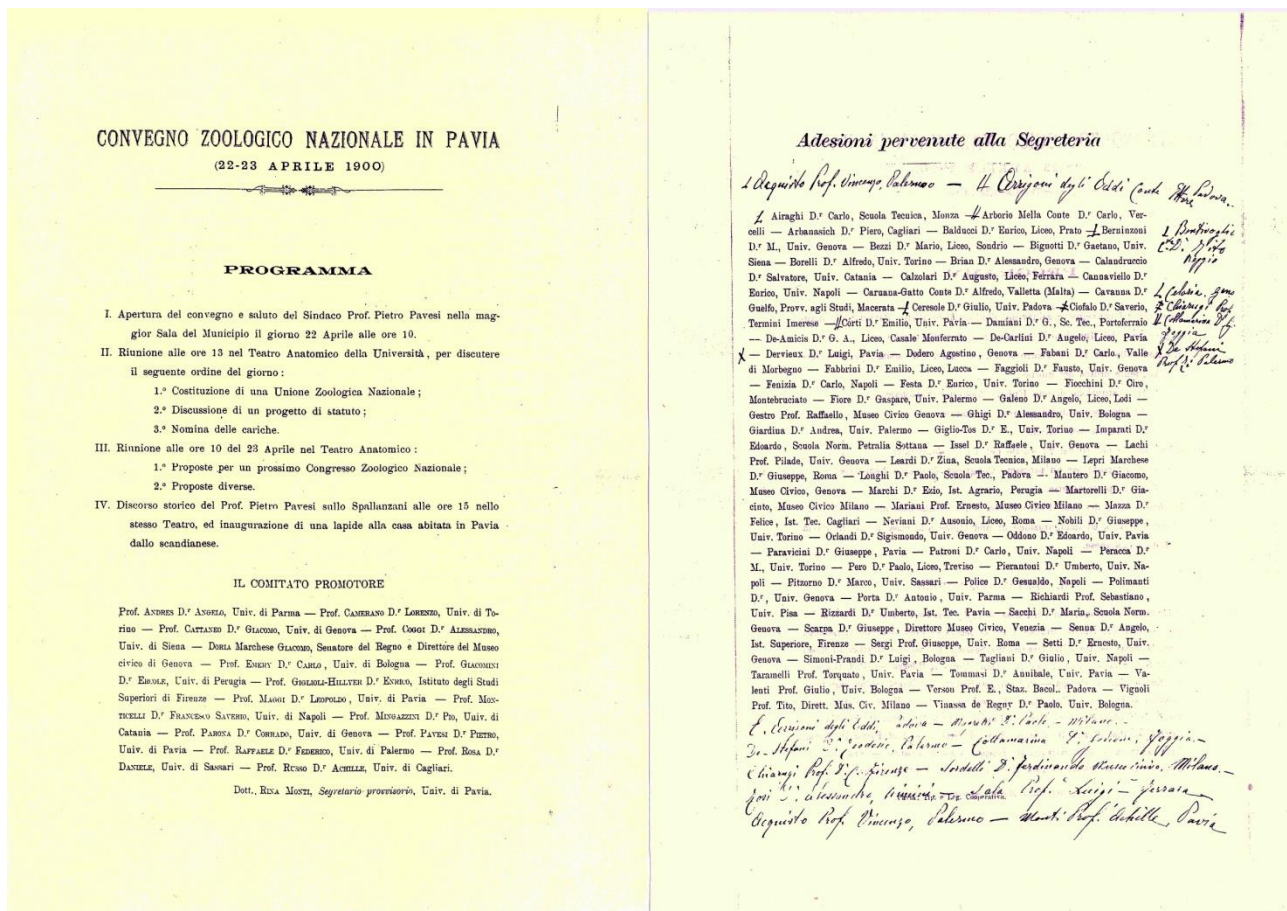


Figure 1. Program of the founding congress of the ‘Unione Zoologica Italiana’



74° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE DELL'UNIONE ZOOLOGICA ITALIANA



**Modena**

30 SETTEMBRE

3 OTTOBRE 2013

