CURRICULUM VITAE

DAVIDE TAUROZZI

Name: Davide

Surname: Taurozzi

Date of Birth: 31/03/1997

Citizenship: Italian

Personal E-mail: davide3197@gmail.com

Institutional E-mail: davide.taurozzi@uniroma3.it

PEC: davide.taurozzi@biologo.onb.it

Website:

- ◊ Università degli Studi Roma Tre: https://lc.cx/JMSJDZ
- ◊ ResearchGate: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Davide-Taurozzi?ev=hdr_xprf
- ◊ LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/davide-taurozzi-b3a14b1b6/
- ◊ ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4635-5379
- ◊ Scopus: https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=57226438470
- ◊ Web of Science: https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/LEM-3082-2024
- ◊ Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=Z2TXxcUAAAAJ&hl=it&oi=ao
- ◊ Loop: https://loop.frontiersin.org/people/2586125/overview
- ◊ Sciprofiles: https://sciprofiles.com/profile/davide-taurozzi

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SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL

CURRICULUM VITAE

WORK EXPERIENCE

- ◊ PhD in Molecular, Cell, and Environmental Biology (January 2023–present) – Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy.
- ◊ Environmental Tour Guide – Presidential Estate of Castelporziano, Rome, Italy (October–December 2023; March–May 2024; October–December 2024; March–May 2025).
- ◊ Academic Tutor – Coordination and participation in orientation events and initiatives for high school students, including presentations on degree programs in biology and guidance in hands-on laboratory and outreach activities at the Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (October 2024–September 2025).
- ◊ Academic Tutor – Academic support for undergraduate students in Biological Sciences and related degree programs, with a focus on exam preparation in Zoology, Developmental Biology, Ecology, Cytology, and Histology at the Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (October 2018–September 2019; October 2020–September 2021; October 2022–September 2023; October 2024–September 2025).
- ◊ Academic Tutor – Support in the planning, organization, and scientific outreach of the GeoGarden and GeoMuseum projects at the Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (October 2017–September 2018).

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS

- ◊ Registered with Section "A" of the Italian National Order of Biologists (FNOB) since April 7, 2022. Registration order: Order of Biologists of Lazio and Abruzzo. Registration number: AA_093056.
- ◊ Qualified to practice as a Biologist by passing the Italian State Examination at the University of Tuscia, achieving a score of 43/50.

EDUCATION

- ◊ Master's Degree in Biodiversity and Environmental Protection (LM-6), University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy — Graduated (110/110) on December 15, 2020. Thesis: "*Study on the colonization of diatoms and invertebrates on artificial substrates in lentic environments*" (scientific sector BIO/07: Ecology), supervisor Prof. Massimiliano Scalici, University of Roma Tre.
- ◊ Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences (L-13), University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy — Graduated with a final grade of 91/110 on March 25, 2019. Thesis: "*Ecological role and mimicry techniques in Hydrophiinae*" (scientific sector BIO/06: Comparative Anatomy and Developmental Biology), supervisor Prof. Massimiliano Scalici, University of Roma Tre.

◊ High School Diploma (Liceo Scientifico "Antonio Labriola"), Rome, Italy — Attained on July 1, 2015, with a final grade of 82/100.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

◊ Lecturer, "Integrated Course in Ecology and Environmental Sustainability" – Bachelor's Programme in "Sciences for Nature Conservation and Environmental Sustainability," University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy (November 2024).

◊ Lecturer, "Laboratory of Biodiversity and Inland Water Ecology" – Bachelor's Programme in "Biological Sciences," University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy (April 2023).

◊ Lecturer, "Integrated Course in Ecology and Environmental Sustainability" – Bachelor's Programme in "Sciences for Nature Conservation and Environmental Sustainability," University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy (November 2023).

◊ Lecturer, "Integrated Laboratory Course in Biodiversity and Inland Water Ecology" – Bachelor's Programme in "Biological Sciences," University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy (April 2023).

◊ Lecturer, "Integrated Course in Ecology and Environmental Sustainability" – Bachelor's Programme in "Sciences for Nature Conservation and Environmental Sustainability," University of Roma Tre, Rome, Italy (March 2023).

INVITED TALKS AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

◊ Invited Speaker, Workshop "*Microplastic emergency and the associated plastisphere in freshwater habitats of the Arctic*" – International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) Arctic Research Program (PRA), Messina, Italy (October 10–11, 2024).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

◊ Poster Presentation: "*Temporary ponds evolution patterns over three decades and ecological implications for micro- and macroscopic biodiversity*" at the Symposium for European Freshwater Sciences (SEFS13), Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom (June 18–23, 2023).

◊ XXXI European Vegetation Survey (EVS), Hungarian Academy, Rome, Italy (May 21–25, 2023). Oral presentation: "*The habitat 3170 in the Lazio Natura 2000 network: distribution, characteristics, and perspectives*".

NATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

◊ XXXIV Annual Congress of the Italian Society of Ecology (S.It.E.), University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Caserta, Italy (September 17–19, 2025). Oral presentation: "*Climbing the gradient: diatom taxonomic and functional diversity patterns along elevational shifts in temporary ponds*"; Poster presentation: "*Airborne plastic invasion: what lichens tell us about our polluted skies*".

◊ XXII Italian Ornithological Conference (CIO), University of Salento and Institute of Terrestrial Ecosystems (CNR-IRET), Salento, Italy (September 9–12, 2025). Oral presentation: "*Seabirds from the poles: microplastics pollution sentinels*".

◊ XXXIII Annual Congress of the Italian Society of Ecology (S.It.E.), Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, Italy (September 23–26, 2024). Oral presentation: "*Freshwater diatom diversity from Mediterranean and Alpine temporary ponds: status, trends, and new insights for conservation*"; Poster presentation: "*Plasticising aquatic ecosystems: plastic pollution from inland to marine waters*".

◊ Congress for Young Researchers and PhD Students in Ecology and Aquatic Systems Science, University of Milan-Bicocca (in collaboration with the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, and the Department of Biotechnology and Biosciences, with the support of the Milan-Bicocca Doctoral School), Milan, Italy (June 11–12, 2024). Oral presentation: "*Alpine temporary ponds: vulnerability of a disappearing ecosystem*".

◊ XXXII Annual Congress of the Italian Society of Ecology (S.It.E.), Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania, Catania, Italy (September 6–8, 2023). Poster presentation: "*Temporary ponds (TPs): research, conservation and vulnerability of a disappearing ecosystem*".

ATTENDED CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING COURSES

◊ "A2 Drone License" Training Course, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (June 2025) – Certificate no. ESP-RP-000000118998

◊ "A1–A3 Drone License" Training Course, European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) (May 2025) – Certificate no. LUX-RP-19970331fekd

◊ "Waste Classification and Management Cycle", Order of Biologists of Lazio and Abruzzo (OBLA), February–March 2025

◊ "Landing Area Management Qualification (for airstrips, hydro-aircraft and helipads)", Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC) – Certificate no. ITA-AEI-000000903

◊ CISO Day 2024 – "Birds and Wind Power: Conflicts and Compatibility" Conference, Italian Centre for Ornithological Studies (CISO), SROPU, Ornis Italica (March 2024)

◊ "Management of Italy's Natural Heritage in Recent Decades" Conference, Italian National Order of Biologists, Rome, Italy (May 22, 2023)

◊ "Green Marketing and Environmental Communication" Training Course, Ascheri Academy (April 2023)

◊ Master in "Sports Law", Ascheri Academy (March 2023)

◊ Master in "Environmental Law and the Circular Economy", Ascheri Academy (October 2022)

◊ "Certificate in Risk Management", E-Learning College (October 2022)

◊ "Diet and Nutrition", E-Learning College (October 2022)

◊ "Building Climate Resilience through Ecosystem-based Adaptation Planning", UN CC-Learn, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), as part of the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme (NAP-GSP) (July 2022)

◊ "Nature-based Solutions for Disaster and Climate Resilience", United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR) (July 2022)

◊ "Food Hygiene", E-Learning College (June 2022)

◊ "Territory Analysis and Participatory Governance Tools", University of Naples Federico II (June 2022)

◊ "Applied Nutraceutical Chemistry", University of Naples Federico II (June 2022)

◊ "Bioaccumulation and Biomagnification of Environmental Pollutants", University of Naples Federico II (May 2022)

◊ "Nutritional Biochemistry", University of Naples Federico II (May 2022)

◊ "General and Specific Occupational Safety Training", Cosmo Data SRL (February 2022)

◊ "Excellent in Excel", Tutored (May 2021)

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

◊ "*Plastic pollution: effects from global to regional and local scales*", Ecology Seminar Series, Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (October 7, 2024)

◊ "*How to stop the climate change*", Ecology Seminar Series, Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (October 15, 2023)

◊ "*Bioindication as a tool for environmental monitoring and ecosystem management*", Ecology Seminar Series, Department of Sciences, Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (November 9, 2023)

RESEARCH STAYS AT UNIVERSITIES OR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

◊ June – September 2025: Department of Environment Constructions and Design, University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI), Mendrisio, Switzerland.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

◊ Participant, ICARP IV Process – The 4th International Conference on Arctic Research Planning (2022–2026) at the Parco Horcynus Orca, Messina, Italy (October 2024).

PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS

◊ Principal Investigator, Science and Technology Facilities Council – ISIS@MACH ITALIA project: "*Alpine temporary ponds: ecological and environmental drivers of diatom diversity in priority habitats*" (from June 19, 2025).

◊ Participant, MonITRing ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the "Centro Habitat Mediterraneo" LIPU Ostia Ornithological Station, Rome, Italy (October 2019 – July 2025).

◊ Participant, "Piccole Isole" ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the Ventotene Island Ornithological Station, Ventotene (LT), Italy (May 2025).

◊ Participant, "Occhione" project – Scientific bird ringing, Ornis Italica (May – June 2024).

◊ Participant, "Nidi e Tralicci – Ghiandaia Marina" project – Scientific bird ringing, Ornis Italica (May – June 2024).

◊ Participant, "Piccole Isole" ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the CISCA Ponza Ornithological Station, Ponza (LT), Italy (May 2024).

◊ Participant, "Progetto Alpi" ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the Monte Pizzoc Ornithological Station, Vittorio Veneto (TV), Italy (October 2024).

◊ Participant, "Progetto Alpi" ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the Monte Pizzoc Ornithological Station, Vittorio Veneto (TV), Italy (October 2023).

◊ Participant, "Progetto Alpi" ISPRA project – Scientific bird ringing at the La Passata Ornithological Station, Zogno (BG), Italy (October 2019).

EDITORIAL AND PEER REVIEW ACTIVITIES

◊ Topic Editor, "Frontiers in Freshwater Science" (international journal), guest editor for the Research Topic "*Biodiversity In Flux: Ecological Responses to Hydrological Variability in Ephemeral and Intermittent Freshwater*" (June 2025 – February 2026).

◊ Referee (peer reviewer) for the following international journals: Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research; Discover Environment; Discover Water; Ecological Indicators; Environmental Monitoring and Assessment; Environmental Science and Pollution Research; Environmental Toxicology and

Chemistry; Frontiers in Bird Science; Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution; Hydrobiology; Marine Geodesy; Science of The Total Environment; Sustainability; Toxics; Water; Wetlands Ecology and Management

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

◊ Winner of the "Luigi Michaud" Award, granted by the Italian Society of Ecology (S.It.E.), honoring a young Italian researcher in Ecological Sciences for 2024. The award recognizes the best ecology article published in an international ISI-indexed journal in 2023, for which the candidate was first author. The prize was awarded for my article "*New ecological frontiers in the plastisphere: Diatoms and macroinvertebrates turnover assessment by a traits-based approach*" published in Science of the Total Environment. The award ceremony took place on September 26, 2024, during the closing ceremony of the XXXIII National Congress of the Italian Society of Ecology, Rome, Italy.

◊ Invited Contributor, editorial interview "*An Invisible Threat to Arctic Birds*" published in the international magazine The Circle by WWF International, as part of the WWF Global Arctic Programme, March 2024. The interview was part of the special issue "Arctic clean-up: turning the tide."

THESIS COORDINATION

◊ Co-coordinator, Master's thesis in Marine Biology – "*Role of Holothuria tubulosa as a sentinel organism for microplastic presence in different benthic marine habitats*" for the degree course "Biodiversity and Environmental Protection," Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (July 2025).

◊ Co-coordinator, Bachelor's thesis in Marine Biology – "*Use of biological weapons in controlling invasive species: the case study of the blue crab (Callinectes sapidus Rathbun, 1896)*" for the degree course "Sciences for the Protection of Nature and Environmental Sustainability," Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (July 2025).

◊ Co-coordinator, Bachelor's thesis in Marine Biology – "*Effects of ocean acidification on calcifying organisms*" for the degree course "Sciences for the Protection of Nature and Environmental Sustainability," Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (April 2025).

◊ Co-coordinator, Master's thesis in Inland Water Ecology – "*Assessment of the conservation status of natural ponds in the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano*" for the degree course "Biodiversity and Environmental Protection," Roma Tre University, Rome, Italy (July 2024).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES

- ◊ LEAF25 – heaL thE plAnet's Future: Participation in the European Researchers' Night (European Commission HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), coordinated public outreach initiative, September 26, 2025.
- ◊ LEAF25 – heaL thE plAnet's Future: Seminar titled "Microplastics at the Ends of the Earth" as part of the European Researchers' Night (European Commission HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), September 26, 2025.
- ◊ Bioblitz City Nature Challenge 2025: Science communication to the public at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano, April 24, 2025.
- ◊ Science communication: Guided tours at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano to promote and disseminate the natural and cultural heritage of the Reserve to the general public, April–June 2025.
- ◊ Science communication: Guided tours at the LIPU Centro Habitat Mediterraneo Oasis, Ostia (Rome), for primary and secondary school students, raising awareness of the oasis's environmental heritage, May 2025.
- ◊ Science communication: Guided tours at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano to promote and disseminate the natural and cultural heritage of the Reserve to the general public, October–December 2024.
- ◊ LEAF24 – heaL thE plAnet's Future: Participation in the European Researchers' Night (European Commission HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), September 27, 2024.
- ◊ Science communication: Guided tours at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano to promote and disseminate the natural and cultural heritage of the Reserve to the general public, April–June 2024.
- ◊ Bioblitz City Nature Challenge 2024: Science communication to the public at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano, April 27, 2024.
- ◊ Science communication: Guided tours at the Presidential Estate of Castelporziano to promote and disseminate the natural and cultural heritage of the Reserve to the general public, October–December 2023.
- ◊ LEAF23 – heaL thE plAnet's Future: Participation in the European Researchers' Night (European Commission HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01, Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions), September 29, 2023.

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

My research focuses primarily on biological communities in freshwater ecosystems, with particular emphasis on organisms commonly used as bioindicators for assessing the ecological status of aquatic environments. Key research areas include:

- ◊ Analysis of taxonomic and functional diversity in diatoms and macroinvertebrates across different environmental contexts, from small-scale (e.g., individual wetlands or artificial substrates) to large-scale (temporary ponds distributed along altitudinal gradients).
- ◊ Mapping and characterization of natural and artificial (temporary and permanent) pond environments on a national scale, with a focus on diatom communities in relation to specific environmental settings (Mediterranean temporary ponds 3170*, alpine temporary ponds) and ecological gradients (latitudinal, seasonal).
- ◊ Assessment of the effects of plastics on the ecology and physiology of model organisms at various trophic levels (macroinvertebrates, diatoms, *Hydra vulgaris*).
- ◊ Analysis of microplastic pollution in urban, peri-urban, and natural environments using passive (epiphytic lichens) and active (birds) bioindication approaches, aiming to monitor the spread and potential ecotoxicological implications of these emerging contaminants.

Initial research focused on the accumulation of plastic debris in coastal environments and the role of stranded plant biomass in retaining microplastics [1]. These studies highlighted the importance of human infrastructure in debris distribution and paved the way for investigations into the effects of plastics in freshwater environments. In this context, I analyzed the colonization of plastics by diatoms in lentic waters, demonstrating that these substrates can enhance algal settlement and influence local biodiversity [2].

Research then expanded to the colonization of artificial substrates (PS and PET) by diatoms and macroinvertebrates in a protected wetland, using a trait-based approach [3,6,12]. Results revealed co-occurrence patterns among different functional groups and substrate selection differences in macroinvertebrates, suggesting potential biodiversity enrichment in impacted environments. Within this framework, the ecotoxicological effects of microplastics on model organisms across trophic levels were investigated, revealing significant impacts on morphology, regeneration, and behavior [5].

Parallel research explored new frontiers in environmental biomonitoring: epiphytic lichens were employed as passive bioindicators of airborne microplastics along an urban–natural gradient [8], while Arctic and Antarctic birds were used to assess plastic accumulation in remote marine systems [7]. Both studies confirmed the value of these organisms in monitoring emerging contaminants.

A further research strand addressed the ecology of ephemeral waters, highly sensitive and understudied environments. In particular, I investigated the use of diatoms as bioindicators in various types of temporary waters (intermittent streams, temporary ponds, large wetlands) [9]. Specific studies were conducted on coastal Mediterranean temporary ponds, such as those in the Castelporziano Reserve [11], and on high-altitude alpine ponds, for which I produced the first national georeferenced checklist [10]. In both cases, analyses revealed ecological patterns linked to environmental factors (altitude, distance from the sea, seasonality) and provided valuable insights for conservation.

Finally, the response of diatoms to seasonal changes was extended to Mediterranean intermittent rivers, where I analyzed the effect of seasonality on the functional and compositional diversity of diatom communities [14]. This work highlights the pivotal role of hydrological regimes in shaping biodiversity and underscores the importance of long-term monitoring in a changing climate.

Other research has included studies on interspecific behavior between amphibians and arthropods [4], and the use of citizen science data to assess predatory interactions between birds and the invasive crayfish *Procambarus clarkii*, a widespread species in Italy [13], and bird and the non-native spiny-cheek crayfish (*Faxonius limosus*) [15].

LIST OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Below is a list of publications printed in national and international journals. The publications are presented in chronological order (oldest to most recent).

1. Cesarini, G., Cera, A., Battisti, C., **Taurozzi, D.**, & Scalici, M. (2021). Is the weight of plastic litter correlated with vegetal wrack? A case study from a Central Italian beach. *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, *171*, 112794. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2021.112794.
2. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., & Scalici, M. (2023). Epiplastic microhabitats for epibenthic organisms: a new inland water frontier for diatoms. Environmental Science and Pollution Research, 30(7), 17984-17993. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-022-23335-8.
3. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., & Scalici, M. (2023). New ecological frontiers in the plastisphere: Diatoms and macroinvertebrates turnover assessment by a traits-based approach. Science of the Total Environment, 887, 164186. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.164186.
4. Cerini, F., Pardo, C., **Taurozzi, D.**, Gambioli, B., & Vignoli, L. (2023). Mutual Avoidance in the Spectacled Salamander and Centipede: A Discrepancy between Exploratory Field and Laboratory Data. Animals, 13(20), 3214. https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13203214.
5. Cesarini, G., Secco, S., **Taurozzi, D**., Venditti, I., Battocchio, C., Marcheggiani, S., ... & Puccinelli, C. (2023). Teratogenic effects of environmental concentration of plastic particles on freshwater organisms. Science of The Total Environment, 898, 165564. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.165564.
6. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., & Scalici, M. (2024). Diatom and macroinvertebrate communities dynamic: A co-occurrence pattern analysis on plastic substrates. Science of the Total Environment, 912, 169071. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.169071.
7. **Taurozzi, D.**, & Scalici, M. (2024). Seabirds from the poles: microplastics pollution sentinels. Frontiers in Marine Science, 11, 1343617. https://doi.org/10.3389/fmars.2024.1343617.

8. **Taurozzi, D.**, Gallitelli, L., Cesarini, G., Romano, S., Orsini, M., & Scalici, M. (2024). Passive biomonitoring of airborne microplastics using lichens: A comparison between urban, natural and protected environments. Environment International, 187, 108707. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envint.2024.108707.
9. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., & Scalici, M. (2024). Diatoms as bioindicators for health assessments of ephemeral freshwater ecosystems: A comprehensive review. Ecological Indicators, 166, 112309. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolind.2024.112309.
10. **Taurozzi, D.**, & Scalici, M. (2024). Mapping Italian high-altitude ponds. Environmental Management, 1-17. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00267-024-02061-6.
11. **Taurozzi, D.**, & Scalici, M. (2024). Assessing the conservation status of Mediterranean coastal ponds: Checklist, ecological and functional diversity of diatom communities. Continental Shelf Research, 283, 105359. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csr.2024.105359.
12. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., & Scalici, M. (2025). Macroplastic colonization by macroinvertebrates in a Mediterranean wetland: A Biodiversity Enrichment Opportunity. Anthropocene, 100461. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ancene.2025.100461.
13. Giordano, J., **Taurozzi, D.**, Vecchio, G., Scalici, M., Battisti, C., & Bertolino, S. (2025). The introduced red swamp crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*) Girard, 1852, as prey for birds in Italy: a first citizen science-based checklist. Rendiconti Lincei. Scienze Fisiche e Naturali, 1-11. https://doi.org/10.1007/s12210-025-01325-5
14. **Taurozzi, D.**, Cesarini, G., di Santo, C., & Scalici, M. (2025). Beyond the flow: ecological insights from diatom communities of a Mediterranean intermittent river. Environmental Research, 122284. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2025.122284.
15. Giordano, J., **Taurozzi, D.**, Vecchio, G., Scalici, M., & Battisti, C. (2025). Citizen scientist in action: first evidence of the non-native spiny-cheek crayfish Faxonius limosus (Rafinesque, 1817) as a trophic source for water-related birds. Rivista Italiana di Ornitologia, 95(1). https://doi.org/10.4081/rio.2025.815.