

than 95 caves were bioprospected until now in the entire Mediterranean. As far as taxonomic richness a total of 303 species belonging to 138 genera, 69 families, 19 orders and 4 classes were recorded. The analysis of the chorological categories shows that most of the biogeographic patterns of Mediterranean sponges occurring in caves are Atlanto-Mediterranean (n=127, 42%) followed by the Mediterranean endemics (n=122, 40%), cosmopolitan (n=40, 13%) and a few ampho-Atlantic (n=9, 3%) and Indo-Mediterranean (n=5, 2%) species. Only 31 species (10%) of sponges are endemic to Mediterranean caves, with 18 species (6%) exclusively recorded each from a single cave. Data on taxonomic richness of the caves in the Mediterranean geographical areas were tested by statistical analysis. The data clearly show that in the Mediterranean caves i) knowledge of the sponge fauna is far from uniform, ii) taxonomic richness is directly proportional to the number of studies performed in each cave/subMediterranean Basin, iii) the rich and diversified biota harbours a highly structured sponge taxocenosis, iv) sciophilous sponge species are dominant on other benthic sessile taxa (Cnidaria, Bryozoa).

Subterranean Biodiversity and Biogeography: poster presentation

Terrestrial isopods (Crustacea: Isopoda: Oniscidea) from Brazilian caves

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Up to date only six species of terrestrial isopods (*Benthana iporangensis* Lima & Serejo, 1993; *Amazoniscus eleonora* Souza, Bezerra & Araujo, 2006; *Trichorhina guanophila* Souza-Kury, 1993; *Circoniscus buckupi* Campos-Filho & Araujo, 2011; *Circoniscus carajasensis* Campos-Filho & Araujo, 2011; *Gabunillo aridicola* Souza, Senna & Kury, 2010) were known from Brazilian caves but only four could be considered as troglobionts. We have lately examined a large collection of Oniscidea from many Brazilian karst caves in the states of Pará, Bahia, Minas Gerais and São Paulo. The specimens are deposited in the collections of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo, and the Coleção de Carcinologia, Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul. The Pará caves (10) are located along the Xingu River in the Amazonian forest; Bahia caves (5, some of which are tourist caves) in the Atlantic forest area, Minas Gerais caves (2) in the Cerrado, and the São Paulo Cave in a karst system near the Betari River. Twenty species of Oniscidea have been identified, of which 12 in the families Styloniscidae, Philosciidae, Scleropactidae, Platyarthridae, Dubioniscidae, and Armadillidae are new to science. Three new genera (two in the family Styloniscidae and one in Scleropactidae) are also recognized. Four new species in the families Styloniscidae and Scleropactidae, are highly troglomorphic and can be considered as troglobionts. All the remaining species are troglone, including the already known species *Miktoniscus medcofi* Van Name, 1940, *Circoniscus intermedius* Souza & Lemos de Castro, 1991, *Dubioniscus goeldii* (Lemos de Castro, 1967) and *Dubioniscus marmoratus* Lemos de Castro, 1970 from Pará caves, *Porcellionides pruinosus* (Brandt, 1833) and *Cubaris murina* Brandt, 1833 from Bahia caves, and *Benthana taeniata* Araujo & Buckup, 1994 and *Armadillidium vulgare* (Latreille, 1804) from Minas Gerais caves.