



13th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOSSIL ALGAE

The 13th International Symposium on Fossil algae of the IFAA (International Fossil Algae Association) will be held in Le Castella (Calabria, southern Italy), from 2 to 6 September 2024. The scientific topics will cover any aspects of calcareous algae and microbialites, including biological evolution, present-day and past biogeography, stratigraphic significance, paleoecology, and sedimentogenic role. Because of the central role of calcareous algae in the global carbon budget, especially welcome are contributions aimed at the identification and delimitation in space and time of marine habitats dominated by calcareous algae, across latitudinal gradients and in different (paleo)environmental settings.

The Symposium will be organized by the University of Milano-Bicocca, Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, in collaboration with the Crotona Province, managing the Marine Protected Area of "Capo Rizzuto", the Museum Pélagos, and the Aragonese Fortress of Le Castella, where all scientific sessions will be held.

The interplay of the Pleistocene uplift of the Calabrian Arc and the late Quaternary eustatic oscillations generated a flight of well-developed marine terraces that are preserved in the Crotona Peninsula, where fossiliferous successions rich in red calcareous algae crop out. Le Castella is located on the Ionian coast, within reach not only of the Pleistocene marine terraces, but also of the Vrica GSSP for the Calabrian stage, which are the destinations of our post-symposium field trip.

Scientific topics:

- Bio mineralization and algal- or microbe-induced sedimentation
- Stromatolites and microbialites
- Taxonomy and systematics
- Evolutionary history
- Biogeography and palaeoclimatology
- Ecology and paleoecology and role in the global change
- Identification and quantification of living/fossil calcareous algae
- Biostratigraphy
- Taphonomy and diagenesis
- Significance of algae in hydrocarbon and mineral resources formation

The closest airport to Le Castella is Lamezia Terme, where you can arrive with flights from Milano or Rome. We are planning to organize the transfer from Lamezia airport to Le Castella in the most appropriate way, depending on the number of participants (pre-registration please!).