

Lorenzo Braga

Curriculum Vitae

Born in Mantua, Italy, on 10th December 1999.

Contacts

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Education

Academic degrees

- 10/2021 – 07/2023: Master's Degree in Experimental and Applied Biology (*Curriculum*: Evolution, control and protection of biodiversity and environment) [LM-6]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Thesis title: "Biodiversità tra impatto antropico e cambiamenti climatici: il caso studio di Palù di Livenza per comprendere la relazione tra trasformazioni millenarie ed evidenze attuali". Thesis advisor: Prof. Anna Maria Mercuri. Thesis co-advisor: Dr. Jessica Zappa.

The thesis's objective was to assess human and climate drivers for plant biodiversity change through time in the off-site of "Palù di Livenza", a Neolithic pile-dwelling site. The objective was met through analysis of modern pollen rain and its comparison with the Neolithic pollen rain. Another objective of this work was to standardise pollen taxonomy and associate pollen analyses with floristic studies, linking the study of biodiversity at a microscopic scale with its study at a macroscopic scale, and eventually brought to the foundation of a dedicated database.

110/110 *cum laude* and honours.

- 09/2018 – 07/2021: Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences [L-13]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Thesis title: "Osservazioni sulle fitocenosi del SIN Laghi-Polo petrolchimico di Mantova: specie indicatrici di metalli pesanti nel suolo". Thesis advisor: Prof. Anna Maria Mercuri. Thesis co-advisor: Dr. Fabrizio Buldrini.

The thesis's aim was to assess whether the heavy metal pollution in the area selected tolerant plant species and to possibly identify good *in situ* plant bioindicators. This thesis's work was brought on during my Master's Degree study years, eventually leading to a publication on a scientific journal.

110/110 *cum laude*.

Workshops and courses

- 20/05/2022 – 22/05/2022: SBI-odiversità – Corso intensivo di determinazione delle piante vascolari per conoscere il nostro patrimonio vegetale. Italian Botanical Society, Emilia-Romagna regional branch, Italy.
- 27/06/2022 – 01/07/2022 (3 CFU): Summer School 2022 – Bionomia Marina delle Isole Tremiti. University of Bari "Aldo Moro", Bari, Italy.

- 03/04/2023: NBFC Spoke 3 – Workshop on invasive alien species. University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.
- 29/05/2023 – 01/06/2023 (12 hours): Environmental change and social resilience in Mediterranean islands. Lessons from the interdisciplinary OLEA-project focused on the Balearic Islands. University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Research experiences

- 01/09/2021 – 01/09/2022: private research project collaborator – Microscopic identification of *Alternaria alternata* spores to automate the recognition through software. G2B srl, Curtatone, Mantua, Italy.
- 01/11/2023 – Present: PhD student in Models and Methods for Material and Environmental Sciences. Laboratory of Palynology and Palaeobotany, Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Published papers

- Braga, L.*; Furia, E.; Buldrini, F.; Mercuri, A.M. Pollen and Flora as Bioindicators in Assessing the Status of Polluted Sites: The Case Study of the Mantua Lakes (SIN “Laghi di Mantova e Polo Chimico”; N Italy). *Sustainability* **2023**, *15*, 9414. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su15129414>
- Florenzano, A.; Braga, L.; Saponi, F.; Vaccari, A.; Mercuri, A.M. Land use legacy and forest landscape: the integration of databases and archival data to investigate past events and support future management strategies. *Atti della Società dei Naturalisti e Matematici di Modena* **2023**, *154*, 235-249.

* : Corresponding author.

Abstracts

- Braga, L.; Pollen and Flora as Bioindicators in Assessing the Status of Polluted Sites: The Case Study of the Mantua Lakes (SIN “Laghi di Mantova e Polo Chimico”; N Italy) – BioMeeting 2023; 30/03/2023.
- Zappa, J.; Torri, P.; Fontana, A.; Degasperi, N.; Bassetti, M.; Florenzano, A.; Braga, L.; Micheli, R.; Mercuri, A.M. Palaeoenvironment and land-use at the UNESCO archaeological site of Palù di Livenza (PN): a palynological perspective – 188th Congress of the Italian Botanical Society (IX International Plant Science Conference – IPSC); 13-16/09/2023.

Oral presentations in conferences and workshops

- 30/03/2023: Braga, L.; Pollen and Flora as Bioindicators in Assessing the Status of Polluted Sites: The Case Study of the Mantua Lakes (SIN “Laghi di Mantova e Polo Chimico”; N Italy) – BioMeeting 2023. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.
- 10/11/2023: Braga, L.; Establishing a link between pollen and flora: pollen taxonomy harmonisation and plant biodiversity through PROTO Database – 1st workshop of the Thematic Working Group on Plant Biodiversity of the Past. Online event.

Awards

- 30/03/2023: BioMeeting 2023 – 2nd best presentation (Master's Degree students).
- 18/07/2023: Master's Degree graduation honours.

Institutional activities

- 09/2021 – 07/2023: student representative (2021/2022 cohort) – Master's Degree Course in Experimental and Applied Biology [LM-6]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and

Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

- 09/2022 – 07/2023: student member of the Quality Assurance Committee – Master's Degree Course in Experimental and Applied Biology [LM-6]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Educational roles

- 19/10/2022 – 31/07/2023: Fondo Sostegno Giovani – Tutor for undergraduate students in Biological Sciences [L-13]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.
- 13/04/2023 – 21/04/2023: Fondo Sostegno Giovani – Tutor for laboratory activities in the “LaBS – Laboratorio di Biologia Sperimentale” teaching (Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences [L-13]). Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.
- 28/09/2023 – Present: Fondo Sostegno Giovani – Tutor for undergraduate students in Biological Sciences [L-13]. Department of Life Sciences, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy.

Memberships

- Since 2023: Società dei Naturalisti e Matematici di Modena – Associate member.


Personal skills and competences

- Advanced use of both written and spoken English language;
- Advanced use of MS Office suite, especially Excel and XLStat package for data analysis;
- Advanced use of Past4 for data analysis;
- Basic use of R for data management and analysis;
- Basic use of XAMPP and php coding language for database management tasks;
- Teamwork and team organisation.

According to law 679/2016 of the Regulation of the European Parliament of 27th April 2016, I hereby express my consent to process and use my data provided in this CV.

Modena, 22nd November 2023

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luca B...', is written over a horizontal line.