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The seventh DNA metabarcoding Spring School at Porto

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Registration deadline is 15 March 2017

DNA metabarcoding is a rapidly evolving method for assessing biodiversity from environmental DNA and bulk samples. It has a wide range of applications: biodiversity monitoring, animal diet assessment, reconstruction of paleo communities, among others. DNA metabarcoding uses molecular techniques such as PCR and next generation sequencing, and integrates skills in bioinformatics and biostatistics with classical ecological knowledge.

The DNA metabarcoding spring school is now in its seventh edition, and this year it is co-organized by the metabarcoding.org team and the CIBIO at Porto - Portugal

The DNA metabarcoding spring school will be held

from May 1st to 5th, 2017

The school will be divided in two parts:

- Two days of lectures, May 1st and 2nd.
- Three days of practicals

All the lectures and the practicals will be taught in English

The number of participants in the lecture portion is not limited, but registration is mandatory.

The number of participants in the practical portion is limited to 24.

Candidates can apply for the school by sending an email to the following address :

porto2017 at metabarcoding.org

The email must contain a brief curriculum vitae and a short letter of motivation. For applicants wishing to participate in the practical sessions, we request a more complete letter indicating how your research will benefit from DNA metabarcoding and what you are hoping to learn from this school. As part of the course, each participant in the practical portion will give a flash talk (5 minutes) about your research and how it is related to DNA metabarcoding.

Main lecturers

- Frédéric Boyer (LECA, CNRS, France)
- Antony Chariton (Macquarie University, Australia)
- Eric Coissac (LECA, UGA, France)
- Bruce Deagle (Australian Antarctic Division - Australia)
- Simon Jarman (CIBIO, Portugal)
- Pierre Taberlet (LECA, CNRS, France)
- Lucie Zinger (EDB, CNRS, France)

Course Schedule

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The lectures will cover different aspects of DNA metabarcoding. The bioinformatics practicals will introduce data analysis from raw sequences to basic ecological conclusions. The molecular ecology practical will present basic techniques for DNA extraction in the field and DNA amplification by PCR.

Venue

The meeting will be held at the Parque Biológico de Gaia (41°05'49.5"N 8°33'21.9"W):
http://www.parquebiologico.pt/doc.php?id=141

This location has accommodation for all participants in rooms with 2,4 or 6 beds (c.a 20Euros per night and per person). The venue has a lecture hall and conference rooms to be used for the course. Breakfast and lunch will be available on site (16Euros per person per day for both) while dinner will be arranged at nearby local restaurants for approximately 20Euros per person per day. Vegetarian options will be available for all meals.

To get there:

For attendees arriving on the 31st April, the Porto DNA metabarcoding team will collect you from the airport. If you are arriving earlier in Porto, there are several public transport options. The most direct way to get to Porto is to fly to the Francisco Sa Carneiro International Airport:
http://www.porto-airport.com/

Direct flight are available from more than fifty cities. This airport is serviced by a range of airlines including TAP, Ryanair and EasyJet.

Porto also has regular, low cost train connections to Lisbon and a range of other Portuguese destinations as well as Vigo and Madrid in Spain. More information can be found here:
https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en/train-times/Stations/porto-campanha

Porto has an efficient Metro light rail service:

http://en.metrodoporto.pt/

that can be used to travel from the airport or train stations to Santo Ovidio station, which is the closest one to the venue. From there a taxi or Uber will take you to the venue.

For some country Portugal requires a Schenguen entry visa, arranged before travel.

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