

Advanced School on Biological Control
within the initiatives linked to the “Premio Filippo Silvestri – Giovani”
Perugia - Bevagna, 30 September – 2 October 2026

VENUES

- Wednesday, 30 September (full day): Perugia (Department of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Sciences - DSA3, University of Perugia)
- Thursday, 1 October (full day): Perugia (DSA3, University of Perugia)
- Friday, 2 October (half day): Bevagna (Teatro Francesco Torti and Museo Civico di Palazzo Lepri)

PROGRAMME

Wednesday, 30 September – Perugia (DSA3, University of Perugia)

08:00 REGISTRATION

08:40 OPENING REMARKS

08:40 **Antonio Boggia** (Director of DSA3)

08:50 **Andrea Battisti** (President of ANIE – Accademia Nazionale Italiana di Entomologia)

09:00 ECOLOGY AND BEHAVIOUR OF ENTOMOPHAGOUS INSECTS

09:00 **Eric Conti**. Introduction to the School and an overview of chemical ecology in parasitoids and predators

09:35 **Giacinto Salvatore Germinara**. Methods in chemical ecology

10:10-10:40 *Coffee break*

10:40 **Gianandrea Salerno**. Physical ecology of entomophagous insects

11:15 **Roberto Romani**. Sensory adaptations in parasitoids and predators

11:50 CLASSICAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL: PRINCIPLES, CASE STUDIES AND REGULATORY ASPECTS

11:50 **Chiara Ferracini**. Biological control of *Dryocosmus kuriphilus* using *Torymus sinensis*

12:25 **Luciana Tavella**. Classical and fortuitous biological control of *Halyomorpha halys* in Piedmont

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30 **Alberto Pozzebon**. Classical and fortuitous biological control of *Halyomorpha halys* in Veneto

15:05 **Lucrezia Giovannini**. Regulatory and applied aspects of classical biological control in Italy

15:40-16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK OF BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

16:00 **George Heimpel** (online). Ecological principles underlying the effectiveness of biological control

16:35 **Ian Hardy and K.S. Shameer** (online). Host–parasitoid trophic webs in complex agricultural systems

17:10 PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

17:10 **Francesco Tortorici**. Egg parasitoid identification laboratory: challenges, pitfalls and modern approaches

19:10 CLOSING OF DAY 1

Thursday, 1 October – Perugia (DSA3, University of Perugia)

08:30 DIVERSITY AND APPLICATION OF NATURAL ENEMIES: CURRENT CHALLENGES IN CONSERVATION, INUNDATIVE AND CLASSICAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

08:30 **Gianfranco Anfora**. Augmentative biological control of *Drosophila suzukii*: advances, challenges and future perspectives

09:05 **Marco Valerio Rossi Stacconi**. Classical biological control of *Drosophila suzukii*: from foreign exploration to field implementation

09:40 **Gabriele Rondoni**. Past and current biological control with ladybird beetles

10:15 **Giuseppino Sabbatini Peverieri**. Classical biological control perspectives against *Toumeyella parvicornis*

10:50-11:10 *Coffee break*

11:10 **Giovanni Burgio**. Hoverflies (Diptera: Syrphidae) in conservation and augmentative biological control

11:45 **Maria Luisa Dindo**. Tachinid flies in classical and augmentative biological control

12:20 **Lucia Zappalà**. Zoophytophagous mirid predators in biological control

12:55 **Sauro Simoni**. Masters of predation: efficiency, diversity, and success of phytoseiids in crop protection

13:30-15:00 *Lunch*

15:00 PRACTICAL ACTIVITY

15:00 **Carlo Pecoraro***. Building an AI-assisted workflow for literature research in biological control

Overview of AI tools and design of a supervised workflow for literature search in biological control. Hands-on extraction of key information from papers to develop research hypotheses and identify knowledge gaps; critical evaluation of AI outputs; design of AI-assisted research routines.

Coffee break during the workshop

*Information about the workshop leader: Carlo Pecoraro, PhD, is a biologist with a doctoral background in marine zoology, biodiversity and evolution, and is co-founder and Scientific Director of Physalia-courses. Through Physalia-courses, he organizes and delivers international scientific training courses and workshops, including recent initiatives on AI-assisted coding and AI-supported research workflows for life scientists. Contact email: info@physalia-courses.org

19:00 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Friday, 2 October – Bevagna (Teatro Francesco Torti and Museo Civico di Palazzo Lepri)

“FILIPPO SILVESTRI – GIOVANI 2026” AWARD CEREMONY AND PUBLIC OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

08:30 Departure from Perugia

10:00 Institutional greetings

Annarita Falsacappa, Marco Gasparrini (Comune di Bevagna); Francesca Lepri (IC Bevagna-Cannara); Antonio Boggia (University of Perugia); Andrea Battisti (ANIE).

10:20 FILIPPO SILVESTRI: HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC LEGACY

Andrea Battisti – La figura scientifica di Filippo Silvestri

Scuola secondaria di primo grado di Bevagna – Filippo Silvestri raccontato dagli studenti

Luigi Filippo Russo – Filippo Silvestri e Bevagna: testimonianze e memoria locale

11:15 “PREMIO FILIPPO SILVESTRI - GIOVANI 2026” PRESENTATION CEREMONY

Davide Scaccini – Lotta biologica: dalla teoria alla pratica

11:45 GUIDED VISIT TO THE MUSEO CIVICO DI PALAZZO LEPRI AND THE FILIPPO SILVESTRI EXHIBITION

12:45 *Refreshments featuring local products*

13:45 Departure for Perugia

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