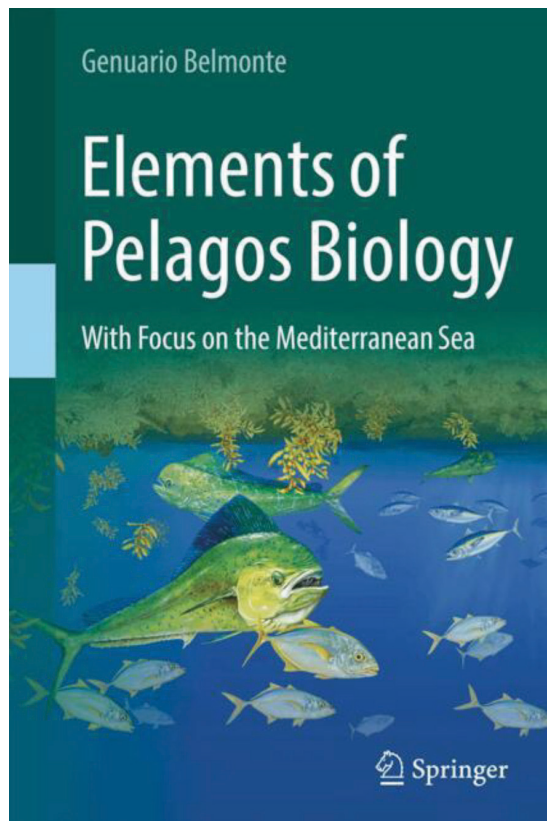


MARGHERITA LICCIANO

Laboratory of Zoogeography and Fauna
University of Salento, 73100 Lecce, Italy
e-mail: margherita.licciano@unisalento.it

ELEMENTS OF PELAGOS BIOLOGY
with focus on the Mediterranean Sea
by Genuario Belmonte

Springer Nature, Springer International Publishing GA, Switzerland.
Edition No: 1, 2024, 380 pp.
ISBN 978-3-031-74280-4



Book cover.

With contributions of (in alphabetic order):

Alberto Gennari, Natural History illustrator, Arts Academy, Lecce, Italy
(drawings of species, habitats, and processes)

Otto Larink, Technische Universität Braunschweig, 38106 Braunschweig,
Germany (Plankton photographic atlas)

Anna Maria Miglietta, Museum of Marine Biology, University of Salento,
73100 Lecce, Italy (graphics and schemes)

Giacomo Milisenda, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, 90142 Palermo, Italy
(pelagic fishery, subchapter 9.2)

Dawn Witherington, Biologist, Artist and Natural History Illustrator, New
York, USA (book cover)

- 200 illustrations (150 in color)
- 25 boxes for deepening single arguments
- 33 tables of plankton photographs
- Etymological vocabulary for the scientific terms and species names
- Index of cited geographic sites
- Index of cited taxa



The author, on board of the ship *Urania*, in a scientific cruise (2013).



Geographic subdivision of Italian sea. Alp, Ape, Pad, Apu, Sar, Sic, indicate six faunal districts on land. Numbers (1–9) indicate the marine biogeographical districts. ALB, ALG, CRO, ESP, FRA, GRE, MLT, MNE, SLO, TUN, indicate the Countries sharing the marine border with Italy.

REVIEW

The book offers an original and different perspective on the topic of pelagic biodiversity, if compared to other available monographs. It is a textbook for the Master Course “Pelagos Biology” at University of Salento.

Oceans cover more than 70% of the Earth’s surface, with an average depth of approximately 3,800 meters. Humanity is largely excluded from this vast world of saltwater, which remains mostly unexplored and unknown. The goal of this book is to introduce readers to this unfamiliar and mysterious realm.

It delves into various species and communities in great detail, emphasizing that the taxonomy, life cycles, and ecological dynamics differ significantly from what is typically taught in basic Biology and Natural Sciences courses, which often focus on terrestrial or freshwater environments, and occasionally, benthic habitats. The pelagic lifestyle, by contrast, is rarely emphasized in Marine Biology textbooks. This book aims to shift that perspective, highlighting the pelagic way of life for marine organisms. As a teaching method, species, geographical locations, and key topics are repeatedly revisited throughout the text to enhance their visibility and reinforce their understanding in the minds of students.

THE AUTHOR

Genuario Belmonte is First Professor of Zoology at University of Salento, Italy, where he works since 1985, and since ten years holds the teaching of Pelagos Biology in the second level international degree course Coastal and Marine Biology and Ecology.

He is a researcher dedicated to studies on plankton and Crustacea, but also an explorer of new situations as submarine caves, and a promoter of Natural History in the field of eco-tourism.

He is also the president of the Museal System of University of Salento, the deputy rector for the university cultural heritage, and the responsible of the University scientific vessel Pelagia.

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