



Alessandro Minelli

Born in Treviso, 20 December 1948, graduated in Natural Sciences in 1970 from the University of Padua, where he has been Professor of Zoology.

Kovalevsky Medal (2024) of the St. Petersburg Society of Naturalists for evolutionary developmental biology and comparative zoology; Medal for the physical and natural sciences (2002) of the National Academy of Sciences known as Accademia dei XL; Ferrari-Soave Award (2005) for animal biology of the Academy of Sciences of Turin.

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (London), of the Italian Embryological Group and of the Accademia Gioenia of Catania. National Member of the Accademia Nazionale delle Scienze detta dei XL, Full Member of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and of the Accademia Nazionale Italiana di Entomologia.

President 1995-2001 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature; Vice-president 1996-98 of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology.

For a while, his research activity mainly focused on zoological systematics and phylogeny, in particular on myriapods, animals with modular body structure the study of which led him to evolutionary developmental biology. In the latter field, Minelli has championed the need for a close integration between the contributions of developmental genetics and those of comparative morphology and embryology.

In his work, he has always given ample space for critical reflection on the conceptual foundations of biological disciplines, often suggesting new keys to interpretation, both in the field of comparative method in biology (e.g., combinatorial homology) and in evolutionary developmental biology (e.g., double segmentation; axis paramorphism; meta-evolvability); as well as in the philosophy of biology, especially about homology and a possible theory of development. For some years now, he has been dealing with the relationships between the various biological disciplines, both from a historical perspective and from the epistemological perspective of a renegotiation of their mutual relations.

Former editor-in-chief of *Frontiers in Evolutionary Developmental Biology* and member of the editorial bodies of *Evolution & Development*, *Journal of Zoological Systematics and Evolutionary Research*, *Senckenbergiana Biologica*, *Theories in Biosciences*, *Zoologischer Anzeiger*, *Zoosystema*, *Zootaxa*.

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