July 2026

Isabella D'Ambra, PhD
Curriculum vitae et studiorum

Researcher
Integrative Marine Ecology Department
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Research interests/expertise: jellyfish, plankton, trophic webs, stable isotope & fatty acid analysis

Education

- 2012 PhD in Marine Sciences (marine biology and biological oceanography), Dept Marine Sciences, University of South Alabama, USA
- 2001 Diplôme Approondi de la Langue Française (DALF), French Ministry of Education, France
- 2000 Laurea (=MSc) in Environmental Sciences, University Parthenope, Naples, Italy
- 1999 Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE), University of Cambridge, UK

Appointments

- 2017 – present Researcher, SZN
- 2021 External Evaluator for the Quality of Research 2015-2019, Italian Ministry of Research
- 2019 External Evaluator for the FAR call, University of Camerino, Italy
- 2015 Evaluator for the Marie Curie Fellowships, panel Environment, European Commission Research Agency, Belgium
- 2017 (6 months) Fixed-term Technician, SZN
- 2000 – 2004 Fixed-term Technologist, SZN

Fellowships

- 2015 – 2016 Post-doc, SZN
- 2013 – 2014 Post-doc, National Institute of Oceanology, Geophysics and Seismology - OGS, Trieste, Italy

Teaching

- 2016 – 2017 Fixed-term Professor – English language, University "Federico II", Naples, Italy
- 2015 – 2016 Fixed-term Professor – English language, University "Federico II", Naples, Italy

Supervising activity (successfully completed)

- 2020 – 2024 Master student, Department of Biology, University "Federico II", Naples, Ital
- 2022 – 2023 Master Student, Department of Animal Biology, University La Sapienza, Roma, Italy
- 2018 – 2021 PhD, OPEN University (UK) - SZN
- 2019 – 2020 Post-doc, SZN
- 2019 – 2020 Master student, Department of Biology, University "Federico II", Naples, Italy

Internship tutoring

- 2026 (6 months): 3 undergraduate students from the Biological Sciences Department, Queen's University, Belfast (UK)
- 2024-2025 (1 year): 1 undergraduate student from the Biological Sciences Department, Queen's University, Belfast (UK)
- 2025 (1 month) 1 undergraduate student from the Biological Sciences Department, Queen's University, Belfast (UK)
- 2024 (1 month) 1 undergraduate student from the Biology Department, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Napoli (Italy)
- 2019 (1 month) 2 undergraduate students from the Biology Department, Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II, Napoli (Italy)

Referee activity:

- 2017 Reviewer for the special issue of Marine Ecology Progress Series: "Jellyfish bloom research: advances and challenges (JB5)", Editors: R. Condon, J. Costello, V. Fuentes, F. Lombard, C. Lucas, J. Purcell, K. Sutherland

- 2016 Reviewer for the special issue of Nova Science Publisher: "Jellyfish: Ecology, Distribution Patterns and Human Interactions". Editor: Gian Luigi Mariottini
- 2012– present Communications Biology, Frontiers in Marine Biology, Marine Ecology Progress Series; Hydrobiologia; Estuarine, Coastal and Shelf Science,Marine Biology, Marine Ecology; Limnology and Oceanography; Journal of Plankton Research; Biosphere, Environmental Science and Pollution Research; Marine Mediterranean Science; Journal of Experimental Marine Biology and Ecology; Mammalian Biology; Acta Adriatica; Chemical Ecology, Marine Drugs, Molecules, Diversity

Participation to projects

- 2018 – 2020: ABBaCo - Restauro Ambientale e Balneabilità del Sito di Interesse Nazionale Bagnoli-Coroglio (Italian Ministry of Research, Italy)
- 2018 – 2020: ACINO - Assesment of Costale sea ice plaNkton cOmmunities: implications for ecosystem functioning (Piano Nazionale per la Ricerca in Antartide, Italy)
- 2019 – 2022. ITEN – Innovazione tecnologica per la tutela e Valorizzazione degli ecosistemi marini (Italian Ministry of Research, Italy)
- 2019 – 2023: FEAMP- Innovazione, Sviluppo e sostenibilità nel settore della pesca e dell'acquacoltura per la Regione Campania (Regione Campania, Italy)
- 2022 – 2026: NBFC - National Biodiversity Future Center (Italian Ministry of research, Italy)

Publications

2026

Magozzi, S., Trueman, C. N., Cobain, M. R. D., MacKenzie, K. M., John Glew, K. St., Canseco, J. A., Díaz-Delgado, E., Fanelli, E., Rumolo, P., Cartes, J. E., Espinasse, B., Agnetta, D., Albo-Puigserver, M., Alomar, C., Alvisi, F., Badalamenti, F., Bănaru, D., Berto, D., Bonanno, A., … Willis, T. J. Spatial models cannot compensate for sampling designs unstructured relative to isotopic variation: Implications for baseline isoscape development in the Mediterranean Sea. Progress in Oceanography, 2026, 248, 103794. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pocean.2026.103794

2025

D'Ambra, I., Saviano, S., Ambrosio, M. A., Botte, V., Iudicone, D., Mazzocchi, M. G., . . . Cianelli, D. (2025). Tracking *Pelagia noctiluca* scyphomedusae by combining modeling and stable isotope approaches. Frontiers in Marine Science, Volume 12 - 2025. doi: 10.3389/fmars.2025.1608726

Arcioni, M., **D'Ambra, I**., Vizzini, S., Scannella, D., Calabrò, M., Falsone, F., . . . Colloca, F. (2025). Trophic ecology of the deep-sea skate *Dipturus oxyrinchus* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the bathyal food web of the central Mediterranean Sea. Deep Sea Research Part I: Oceanographic Research Papers, 225, 104602. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dsr.2025.104602

Lincoln, O. J., Houghton, J. D. R., Zakariya, M., Lauritano, C., & **D'Ambra, I.** (2025). Chemical Defenses in Medusozoa. Marine Drugs, 23(6). doi:10.3390/md23060229

Zakariya, M., Lincoln, O. J., D'Ambra, I., & Lauritano, C. (2025). Anthozoan Chemical Defenses: Integrating Compounds, Enzymatic Activities, and Omics-Based Discoveries. International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 26(13), 6109. doi: https://www.mdpi.com/1422-0067/26/13/6109

2024

Brotz, L., Angel, D. L**., D'Ambra, I**., Enrique-Navarro, A., Lauritano, C., Thibault, D., & Prieto, L. (2024). Chapter Eight - Rhizostomes as a resource: The expanding exploitation of jellyfish by humans. In A. C. Morandini, S. Holst, & G. B. Reinicke (Eds.), Advances in Marine Biology (Vol. 98, pp. 511-547): Academic Press.

Campese, L., Russo, L., Abagnale, M., Alberti, A., Bachi, G., Balestra, C., . . . Montresor, M. (2024). The NEREA Augmented Observatory: an integrative approach to marine coastal ecology. Scientific Data, 11(1), 989. doi: 10.1038/s41597-024-03787-y

Nagata, R. M., **D'Ambra, I.,** Lauritano, C., von Montfort, G. M., Djeghri, N., Jordano, M. A., . . . Leoni, V. (2024). Chapter Five - Physiology and functional biology of Rhizostomeae jellyfish. In A. C. Morandini, S. Holst, & G. B. Reinicke (Eds.), Advances in Marine Biology (Vol. 98, pp. 255-360): Academic Press.

2023

Merquiol, L., Mazzocchi, M. G., & **D'Ambra, I.** (2023). The planktonic food web in the Gulf of Naples based on the analysis of carbon and nitrogen stable isotope ratios. Marine Ecology, 2023 e12762. doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/maec.12762

Merquiol, L., Romano, G., Cutignano, A., & **D'Ambra, I.** (2023). Chemical markers in marine food web: A simple workflow based on methyl tert-butyl ether extraction for fatty acids and stable isotopes assessment in plankton samples. Marine Environmental Research, 190, 106087. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marenvres.2023.106087

2022

D'Ambra, I., & Merquiol, L. (2022). Jellyfish from Fisheries By-Catches as a Sustainable Source of High-Value Compounds with Biotechnological Applications. Marine Drugs, 20(4), 266. doi: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-3397/20/4/266

D'Ambra, I., & Merquiol, L. (2022). Jellyfish from Fisheries By-Catches as a Sustainable Source of High-Value Compounds with Biotechnological Applications. Marine Drugs, 20(4), 266. doi: 10.3390/md20040266

Ciannelli, L., Cannavacciuolo, A., Konstandinidis, P., Mirasole, A., Wong-Ala, J. A. T. K., Guerra, M. T., . . . Cianelli, D. (2022). Ichthyoplankton assemblages and physical characteristics of two submarine canyons in the south central Tyrrhenian Sea. Fisheries Oceanography, 31(5), 480-496. doi: https://doi.org/10.1111/fog.12596

LaJeunesse, T. C., Casado-Amezúa, P., Hume, B. C. C., Butler, C. C., Mordret, S., Piredda, R., . . . **D'Ambra, I.** (2022). Mutualistic dinoflagellates with big disparities in ribosomal DNA variation may confound estimates of symbiont diversity and ecology in the jellyfish *Cotylorhiza tuberculata*. Symbiosis, 88(1), 1-10. doi:10.1007/s13199-022-00880-x

LaJeunesse, T. C., Wiedenmann, J., Casado-Amezúa, P., **D'Ambra, I.,** Turnham, K. E., Nitschke, M. R., . . . Suggett, D. J. (2022). Revival of *Philozoon* Geddes for host-specialized dinoflagellates, 'zooxanthellae', in animals from coastal temperate zones of northern and southern hemispheres. European Journal of Phycology, 57(2), 166-180. doi:10.1080/09670262.2021.1914863

Riccio, G., Martinez, K. A., Martín, J., Reyes, F., **D'Ambra, I.,** & Lauritano, C. (2022). Jellyfish as an Alternative Source of Bioactive Antiproliferative Compounds. Marine Drugs, 20(6), 350. doi: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-3397/20/6/350

2021

D'Ambra, I., Merquiol, L., Graham, W. M., & Costello, J. H. (2021). "Indirect development" increases reproductive plasticity and contributes to the success of scyphozoan jellyfish in the oceans. Scientific Reports, 11(1), 18653. soi: https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-98171-w

2020

D'Ambra, I., & Lauritano, C. (2020). A Review of Toxins from Cnidaria. Marine Drugs, 18(10), 507.doi: https://www.mdpi.com/1660-3397/18/10/507

Coppola, D., Oliviero, M., Vitale, G. A., Lauritano, C., **D'Ambra, I**., Iannace, S., & de Pascale, D. (2020). Marine collagen from alternative and sustainable sources: extraction, processing and applications. Marine Drugs, 18(4). doi: 10.3390/md18040214

Margiotta, F., Balestra, C., Buondonno, A., Casotti, R., **D'Ambra, I.,** Di Capua, I., . . . Zingone, A. (2020). Do plankton reflect the environmental quality status? The case of a post-industrial Mediterranean Bay. Marine Environmental Research, 104980. doi: http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0141113619308578

2019

Merquiol, L., Romano, G., Ianora, A., & **D'Ambra, I. (**2019). Biotechnological Applications of Scyphomedusae. Marine Drugs, 17(11), 604. doi: https://doi.org/10.3390/md17110604

2018

D'Ambra, I., Graham, W. M., Carmichael, R. H., & Hernandez, F. J., Jr. (2018). Dietary overlap between jellyfish and forage fish in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Marine ecology progress Series, 587, 31-40. doi: http://www.int-res.com/abstracts/meps/v587/p31-40/

2016

Avian, M., Ramšak, A., Tirelli, V., **D'Ambra, I**., & Malej, A. (2016). Redescription of Pelagia benovici into a new jellyfish genus, *Mawia*, gen. nov., and its phylogenetic position within Pelagiidae (Cnidaria: Scyphozoa: Semaeostomeae). Invertebrate Systematics, 30(6), 523-546. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.1071/IS16010

2015

D'Ambra, I., Graham, W., Carmichael, R., & Hernandez, F., Jr. (2015). Fish rely on scyphozoan hosts as a primary food source: evidence from stable isotope analysis. Marine Biology, 162(2), 247-252. doi:10.1007/s00227-014-2569-5

D'Ambra, I., & Malej, A. (2015). Scyphomedusae of the Mediterranean: State of the Art and Future Perspectives. Central Nervous System Agents in Medicinal Chemistry, 15(2), 81-94. doi: http://dx.doi.org/10.2174/1871524915666150326114733

2014

D'Ambra, I., Carmichael, R. H., & Graham, W. M. (2014). Determination of $\delta^{13}C$ and $\delta^{15}N$ and trophic fractionation in jellyfish: implications for food web ecology. Marine Biology, 161, 473-480. doi: 10.1007/s00227-013-2345-y

2013

D'Ambra, I., Graham, W. M., Carmichael, R. H., Malej, A., & Onofri, V. (2013). Predation patterns and prey quality of medusae in a semi-enclosed marine lake: implications for food web energy transfer in coastal marine ecosystems. Journal of Plankton Research, 35(6), 1305-1312. doi:10.1093/plankt/fbt065

Gambi, M. C., **D'Ambra I,** Fiorito G, Saggiomo V. (2013). The "Archivio Moncharmont": a Pioneering Biodiversity Assessment in the Gulf of Naples (Italy). In C. Groeben (Ed.), Places, People, Tools Oceanography in the Mediterranean and Beyond - Proceedings of the Eighth International Congress for the History of Oceanography (Vol. IV, pp. 459-468). Napoli: Giannini.

2012

D'Ambra, I. (2012). Application of stable isotopes in the analysis of trophic interactions between jellyfish and fish. University of South Alabama, Mobile (AL).

2010

Graham, W., Condon, R., Carmichael, R., **D'Ambra, I.**, Patterson, H., Linn, L., & Hernandez Jr, F. (2010). Oil carbon entered the coastal planktonic food web during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Environmental Research Letters, 5(4). doi:10.1088/1748-9326/5/4/045301

2009

D'Ambra, I., Graham, W.M. (2009). Early developmental sequence of an anthozoan parasite of the jellyfish Aurelia sp.5 in an isolate marine "lake" (Mljet, Croatia). Annales. Series historia naturalis, 19(2 (suppl.)), 59-64.

Graham, W. M., Chiaverano, L., **D'Ambra, I.,** Mianzan, H., Alvarez Colombo, G., Acha, E.M., Malej, A., Costello, J.H., Onofri, V., Benović, A., & (2009). Fish and jellyfish: using the isolated marine "lakes" of Mljet Island, Croatia, to explore larger marine ecosystem-based management approaches. Annales. Series historia naturalis, 19(2 (suppl.)), 39-48.

2001

D'Ambra, I., Costello, J., & Bentivegna, F. (2001). Flow and prey capture by the scyphomedusa *Phyllorhiza punctata* von Lendenfeld, 1884. Hydrobiologia, 451(1-3), 223-227. doi: 10.1023/A:1011832222174

D'Ambra, I., Costello, J. H., & Bentivegna, F. (2001b). An example of collaborative research at the Naples Aquarium: feeding mechanisms of the scyphomedusa *Phyllorhiza punctata* (Lendenfeld, 1884). Bulletin de l'Institut Océanographique de Monaco, 20(1), 1-6.