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Personal keywords: Heterobranchia, Cnidaria, Benthic Ecology, Underwater Photography, Underwater mapping

Scientific interests :

The **Heterobranchia** are a charismatic group of Gastropoda studied in the Mediterranean since the dawn of taxonomy with the contribution of numerous scientists operating in the Italian territory, until the end of the 80s of the last century, with the description of numerous endemic species. The progressive shift of research towards ecology has almost eliminated the national contribution to this group. The consequence was a loss of interest in the Mediterranean contingent and the tout-court assimilation to the North-East Atlantic contingent. My main commitment is to re-establish the role of the Mediterranean contingent, both through the recovery and reassessment of previous knowledge, and through the description of new taxonomic entities, in a global context. The construction of a **validated underwater photographic archive** is not secondary. Describing habitats and plant and animal species of the submerged Mediterranean, it is the basis for the series of popular guides which pivot around the **Atlante di Flora e fauna del Mediterraneo** (Il Castello), which in its sixth edition in 2021.

Selected publications

- Furfaro G., D'Elia M., Mariano S., **Trainito E.**, Solca M., Piraino S. & Belmonte G., 2022. SEM/EDX analysis of stomach contents of a sea slug snacking on a polluted seafloor reveal microplastics as a component of its diet. *Scientific Reports*. DOI: [10.1038/s41598-022-14299-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-14299-3)
- Canessa, M.; Bavestrello, G.; Bo, M.; Enrichetti, F.; **Trainito, E.**, 2022. Filling a Gap: A Population of *Eunicella verrucosa* (Pallas, 1766) (Anthozoa, Alcyonacea) in the Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area (NE Sardinia, Italy). *Diversity* 2022, 14, 405. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14050405>
- Furfaro, G.; Schreier, C.; **Trainito, E.**; Pontes, M.; Madrenas, E.; Girard, P.; Mariottini, P., 2022. The Sea Slug *Doriopsilla areolata* Bergh, 1880 (Mollusca, Gastropoda) in the Mediterranean Sea: Another Case of Cryptic Diversity. *Diversity* 2022, 14, 297. <https://doi.org/10.3390/d14040297>
- Canessa M., G.Bavestrello, **E.Trainito**, C.N.Bianchi, C.Morri, A.Navone & R.Cattaneo-Vietti, 2021. A large and erected sponge assemblage on granite outcrops in a Mediterranean Marine Protected Area (NESardinia). *Regional Studies in Marine Science* 44, 101734. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rsma.2021.101734>
- Furfaro G., **Trainito E.**, 2017. A new species from the Mediterranean Sea and North-Eastern Atlantic Ocean: *Knoutsodonta pictoni* n. sp. (Gastropoda Heterobranchia Nudibranchia). *Biodiversity Journal*, 2017, 8 (2): 725–738. [https://www.biodiversityjournal.com/pdf/8\(2\)_725-738.pdf](https://www.biodiversityjournal.com/pdf/8(2)_725-738.pdf)