



Secrets of the deep sea Symposium celebrating the anniversaries of the “Pola Expeditions”

Pola expeditions: 1890–1898
1893 third expedition to the eastern Mediterranean
1898 second expedition to the Red Sea

Natural History Museum Vienna, Lecture Hall (Vortragssaal)

27. June 2018; 17.00 – 21.00

Human pressures are affecting increasingly deeper sectors of the marine environment, which hosts a unique biodiversity, but is not well known due to the difficulties and costs of deep-sea exploration.

In the 1890s, the Austro-Hungarian monarchy organized the first expeditions to the deeper sectors of the Eastern Mediterranean and Red Sea with the vessel “Pola”, setting the stage for their exploration. More than a century later, the samples and data gathered from the scientists onboard the “Pola” still constitute a fundamental source of information, because they represent the baseline conditions before the onset of several sources of anthropogenic disturbances of deep-sea habitats.

Sympathizing with deep-water organisms and habitats is difficult for the public, because there are few chances to see and know about them. However, knowledge is necessary to empower people to make more informed choices and to campaign for change.

By gathering a unique array of scientists in the fields of biology and paleontology, the symposium wishes to highlight the scientific contribution of the “Pola” expeditions by offering an overview of Mediterranean and Red Sea deep-water ecosystems and their conservation challenges.

17.00 Welcome and greetings

Prof. Christian Köberl, Director General, Natural History Museum Vienna

17.10 The Austrian deep-sea expeditions with the HMS Pola: highlights of Austrian scientific history

Dr. Verena Stagl, Natural History Museum Vienna

17.30 Endangered monsters: Levantine deep-sea biota

Dr. Bella S. Galil, Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv, Israel

18.10 Very warm and very salty: The deep Red Sea habitat

Dr. Marco Taviani, Institute of Marine Science – National Research Council, Bologna, Italy

18.50 Pause

19.10 The Tethyan heritage in the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean

Dr. Mathias Harzhauser, Natural History Museum Vienna

19.40 A Red-Med sea? How the Lessepsian invasion is transforming the Mediterranean Sea

Dr. Paolo G. Albano, Department of Palaeontology, University of Vienna

20.10 Guided Tours behind the scene

Zoology, Paleontology