

E. Mioni (1), G. Furfaro (2), S. Merlino (3), A.M. Mannino (4)

[erika.mioni@gmail.com](mailto:erika.mioni@gmail.com)

(1) Istituto Comprensivo Statale ISA2 - La Spezia, Italy; (2) DiSTeBA Università del Salento, Lecce (LE), Italy; (3) Istituto di Scienze Marine del CNR (CNR-ISMAR) La Spezia, Italy; (4) Dip. STEBICEF, Università degli Studi di Palermo, (PA) Italy.

**INTRODUCTION-** “**PERCORSI NEL BLU**” is an innovative Project of well-integrated Ocean Literacy and Marine Citizen Science, launched in La Spezia (Italy) by a Science Teacher of the ISA2 School Institute in 2011. Since November 2019 the project has been promoting “Animali Fantastici e dove trovarli”, an educative and operative program of Citizen Science activities for schools and citizens related to the coastal monitoring of the fouling community along artificial floating pontoons at Marinas of La Spezia. This study highlights how important the contribution of students - citizen scientists can be for collecting data on native and alien species, a great opportunity of early-warning system.

**MATERIALS & METHODS** – Marinas of Fezzano, Portovenere, Santa Teresa and Lerici were chosen as monitoring stations for the Citizen Science activities. Monitoring surveys were realized along linear transects, by *visual census*, involving the participants lying and leaning out of the edge of pontoon, whereas sampling was realized through snorkelling. In accordance with a check list of species and illustrated guides, some data such as abundance and habitat information were collected, together with *in situ* and/or microscopic pictures. Activities were carried out before and after the lockdown, in compliance with Covid-19 regulation.



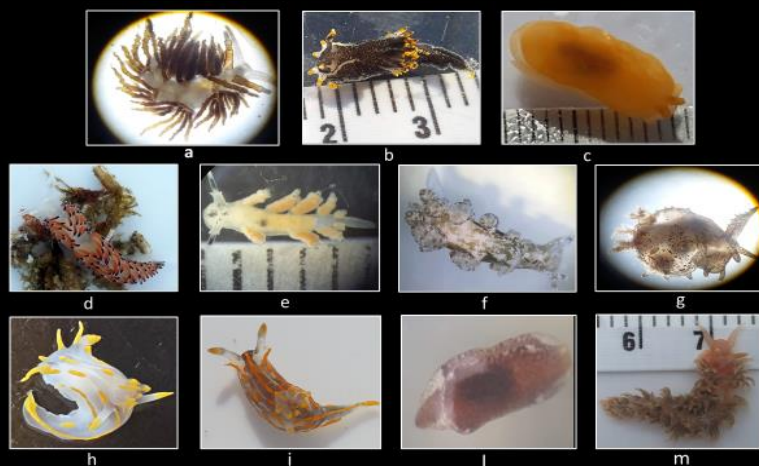
Figure 1. Students and citizens involved in the monitoring program (Pictures by Erika Mioni).

### Check List of Marine Heterobranchia (Mollusca; Gastropoda)

Alien Species	Type of record	Sighting site
<i>Favorinus ghanensis</i> Edmunds, 1968	First record for the Italian coasts. Origin from Ghana -West Africa.	Fezzano (SP)
<i>Polycera hedgpethi</i> Marcus, Er, 1964	New record for the Gulf of La Spezia. Origin from California.	Fezzano (SP), Santa Teresa – Lerici (SP)
Native Species	Type of record	Sighting site
<i>Berthella</i> cf. <i>aurantiaca</i> (Risso, 1818)	First record for the Gulf of La Spezia.	Santa Teresa - Lerici (SP)
<i>Caloria quatrefagesi</i> (Vayssi�re, 1888)	First record for the Gulf of La Spezia.	Fezzano (SP)
<i>Doto cervicenigra</i> Ortea & Bouchet, 1989	First record for the Ligurian Sea.	Lerici (SP)
<i>Eubranchus exiguus</i> (Alder & Hancock, 1848)	First record for the Gulf of La Spezia.	Fezzano(SP)
<i>Okenia</i> cf. <i>longiductis</i> (*) Pola,Paz-Sedano, Macali, Minchin, Marchini, Vitale, Licchelli & Crocetta, 2019	First record for the Ligurian Sea.  (* since frequently misidentified as <i>O. zoobotryon</i> , molecular analysis is currently underway	Fezzano (SP)
<i>Polycera quadrilineata</i> (O. F. M�ller, 1776)	First record for the Gulf of La Spezia.	Fezzano (SP), Santa Teresa - Lerici (SP)
<i>Runcina brengoae</i> T. E. Thompson, 1980	First record for the Ligurian Sea.	Fezzano (SP)
<i>Spurilla neapolitana</i> (Delle Chiaje, 1841)	First record for the Gulf of La Spezia.	Portovenere (SP)

Table 1. The recorded species from marinas of La Spezia (Italy).

**RESULTS & DISCUSSION** - With respect to the fouling community at marinas, specimens of native and alien species of Marine Heterobranchia (Mollusca; Gastropoda) were found as First records on the national, regional and local level, as shown in Table 1 and Figure 2. Further studies and molecular analysis will allow us to gather more information about DNA sequence, morphology and coastal distribution within the Gulf of La Spezia.



a: *Favorinus ghanensis*; b: *Polycera hedgpethi*; c: *Berthella* cf. *aurantiaca*; d: *Caloria quatrefagesi*; e: *Doto cervicenigra*; f: *Eubranchus exiguus*; g: *Okenia* cf. *longiductis*; h: *Polycera quadrilineata*; i: *Polycera quadrilineata*; l: *Runcina brengoae*; m: *Spurilla neapolitana*.

Figure 2. Morphological analysis (Pictures by Erika Mioni).

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