

## **Report: MarBEF Training Workshop in Tunisia**

### A contribution to Spreading of Excellence and to Training (WP7)

The MarBEF co-sponsored training workshop on Copepod Systematics and Biology was held at the campus of the the Faculty of Sciences at Bizerte of the “University of 7 November at Carthage” (Tunisia) during the week 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> of July 2005. The workshop was been very heavily over-subscribed, with a total of 82 applications for the 24 places. The applications came from an amazing 34 countries including: Algeria, Kuwait, Turkey, Senegal, Cameroon, Namibia, Kenya, Tanzania, Indonesia, Latvia, Malaysia, Iran, South Africa, Peru and many EU nations. Clearly the demand for such courses is high. The selection for places was difficult. The main co-sponsors were the Faculty of Sciences at Bizerte of the “University of 7 November at Carthage” and MarBEF, so significant numbers of places were reserved for applicants from MarBEF partners and from Tunisian institutes (in proportion to their level of sponsorship). Additional sponsorship was received from the City Council of Bizerte, who provided a bus to transport course participants from their hotel to the university campus, and from the World Association of Copepodologists who supported the accommodation and part travel of students from Argentina, Senegal and Turkey.

Half of the students came from seven EU nations (UK, Italy, Greece, Poland, Germany, Denmark, France), and they included seven students from the following MarBEF partners:- CEFAS, SAHFOS, AWI (2 students), CoNISMa (2 students) and IOPAS.

The topics covered by lectures and/or laboratory sessions during the week included:

- 1) Introduction to Copepod Form and Functional Morphology:
- 2) Copepod sensory systems and their development
- 3) Small scale phenomena – their role around individual copepods
- 4) Copepod behavioural studies and analysis of copepod behaviour patterns
- 5) Genetics and adaptation of copepods to different environments.
- 6) Copepod Biogeography with special emphasis on the Mediterranean plankton
- 7) Modeling behaviour and processes at the individual level in copepods

Feedback:

Course participants were given a feedback questionnaire. There were seven questions but responses to key questions are:

1. How satisfied are you with the course content?  
Very satisfied = 67%, satisfied = 33%, not satisfied = 0%
2. How satisfied are you with the course organization?  
Very satisfied = 62%, satisfied = 38%, not satisfied = 0%
3. Do you think that attending the course will be useful for your future work/studies?  
Yes = 100%, maybe = 0%, no = 0%

Report submitted by Geoff Boxshall (26 Aug. 2005).