

IN MEMORIAM

ARMANDO SABBADIN
1920 - 2016

Armando Sabbadin was Emeritus Professor of Comparative Anatomy at the University of Padua, Padua (Italy).

He was born in Limena (Padua) on December 21st 1920. Student at the University of Padua, he was enrolled as a soldier in the Italian army during the Second World War, from March, 1941 to August, 1945. He was in Sardinia when the armistice with the Allied Forces was signed. He became part of the Italian Liberation Army that fought with the Allies from Sicily northward, up to the full victory over the Nazi-fascist forces. He was awarded the cross of war.

Because of his military service, he got his degree in Natural Sciences in Naples in 1944, according to the instructions during the war period. He taught in secondary schools from 1945 to 1950.

He was married with Lidia Martini (died in 2011, aged 90) who, together with her sisters, helped many wanted persons to took refuge in Switzerland

during the years of the Nazi occupation of Italy in 1943-45.

Prof. A. Sabbadin was Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Padua, from January 1951 and of Comparative Anatomy from 1952. Full Professor of Comparative Anatomy in 1960; retired in 1991. Teacher of Experimental Embryology from 1964 and of General Biology and Zoology for the Medical School from 1964 to 1974. Director of the former Institute of Animal Biology in the biennium 1964-1966 and of the Marine Station of the University of Padua in Chioggia (Venice) from 1966 to 1980, where he began to restore the historical marine zoological collection now located in the Museum of Adriatic Zoology "Giuseppe Olivi".

Visiting professor at the Stazione Zoologica in Naples and the Oceanographic Institute in Monaco in the early fifties of the last century; awarded a grant from the Italian National Research Council (CNR) for research at the International Embryology Institute, Hubrecht Laboratory in Utrecht in 1956.

His research activity began with the study of gonadogenesis and sexual differentiation in amphibians, under the supervision of Prof. E. Vannini. He confirmed the role of interrenal blastema in gonadal development in *Rana dalmatina*, where all the tadpoles develop female gonads and, only at the metamorphosis climax, in genetic males, the gonad turns to a testis. Sabbadin demonstrated that antithyroidean compounds delay this inversion, in parallel with the retardation in metamorphosis. Moreover, he showed that extirpation of the pituitary gland, in embryos, delays the inversion up to three months after metamorphosis. In 1952, fascinated by the colonies of *Botryllus schlosseri* growing over the walls of the aquaria of the Oceanographic Institute of Monaco, he decided to use ascidians to study sexual differentiation in Chordates and established a laboratory for ascidian research in Padua. The lab is still in activity, thanks to his disciples and his disciples' pupils, and carries out researches in Morphology, Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, and Comparative Immunobiology. This laboratory absorbed all Sabbadin's successive research activity mainly focused on the colonial species *Botryllus schlosseri*.

His seminal papers on allorecognition, germ cell parasitism, genetics of pigmentations, induction of vascular budding, and inversion of polarity in zooids have stimulated the research of many scientists around the world.

Prof. Sabbadin was member of the Italian Zoological Society, Italian Association of Developmental and Comparative Immunobiology,

Italian Embryology Group, International Society of Developmental and Comparative Immunology. He was awarded the honorary membership by the Italian Zoological Society and the Italian Association of Developmental and Comparative Immunobiology. He was honoured in the tunicate name *Clavelina sabbadini* Brunetti, 1987.

He continued to frequent the laboratory until he was 85. He died in Padua on February, 19th 2016.

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