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# 13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Aquatic Oligochaeta



BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC, 7-11 SEPTEMBER 2015

## Book of Abstracts





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13<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Aquatic Oligochaeta  
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## The groundwater oligochaetes (Annelida, Clitellata) from the "Parc du Mercantour" (France)

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Although recognized as an outstanding hotspot of biodiversity for both flora and fauna, the Mercantour massif remains almost totally unexplored for its groundwater fauna. This work reports the first overview on groundwater oligochaete assemblages of the "Parc du Mercantour" after a standardized exploration of both consolidated (fractured massif) and unconsolidated (porous) aquifers. About 40 species of oligochaetes were found in 49 stations representative of the main hydrogeological basins of the "Parc du Mercantour", from both spring and hyporheic zone habitats. Five stygobiont species are identified, probably all new to science, of which two species are formally described, *Aberrantidrilus stephaniae* n. gen., n. sp. (Naididae, Phallodrilinae) and *Marionina sambugarae* n. sp., a species belonging to the widespread *Marionina argentea* species complex (Enchytraeidae). As a result, the genus *Abyssidrilus* Erséus, 1992 is now restricted to its marine, abyssal species. A dozen of species can be considered as stygophiles. Most stygobiont species are recorded from hyporheic habitats, and stygophiles have a more balanced distribution between both kinds of habitats. The nearly absence of stygoxene species from the hyporheic zone suggests that this habitat is less affected by the epigeal environment than springs. The dominance of enchytraeids among the groundwater oligochaete fauna is here confirmed, and the lumbricid genus *Trichodrilus* is also a characteristic faunistic element of the underground freshwater oligochaete communities. Lastly, the possibility that *Aberrantidrilus cuspis* n. comb. sensu Sambugar et al. (1999) is a complex of cryptic species is discussed in the framework of recent progress in the knowledge of groundwater biodiversity, and following an integrative taxonomy approach (morphology and molecular data).