

Short history of the Adriatic marine science: Croatian naturalists and their contributions

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Written documents on the scientific approach to the Adriatic Sea appeared in the 16th century. Since then several ascents and declines in research activities have been recognized. The middle of the 19th century, the investigations were carried out mostly by individual scientists who have set a firm basis for further research. The second half of the 19th century, and the period before the World War I can be qualified as the most fruitful period in the classical research of the Adriatic Sea. By that time, first permanent biological research stations were founded in the North Adriatic, several coastal cruises and offshore expeditions were organized and international collaboration in sea research was conferred. On the contrary, the period between the World War I and II, is considered as a decline in general recognition of the Adriatic Sea in spite of advances in some aspects of marine research. In the period after the World War II, a new boom in the Adriatic marine research occurred. Recent investigations are characterized by a large-scale international collaboration in multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches. Previous research in the Adriatic basin resulted in several events important in the world marine sciences: the creation of a tidal theory, the description of some hundreds species new for science, the concept of marine benthic biocenology, the concept of the relativity of depth zonation, and others. Croatian naturalists have a great contribution in the research of the Adriatic Sea and at the same time had a significant contribution to the world marine science.

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