

IV International Symposium for Anchialine Ecosystems:

USING LARGE DATABASES TO SHED LIGHT ON CAVE SECRETS

Three years with the World Register of marine Cave Species (WoRCS) initiative: current status and future perspectives

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The World Register of marine Cave Species (WoRCS) constitutes a Thematic Species Database of the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS). It was launched in 2016 by 8 founding Thematic Editors and the WoRMS Data Management Team with the aim to create a comprehensive taxonomic and ecological database of species known from marine caves and anchialine environments worldwide. Currently the WoRCS database includes 1396 marine and 237 non-marine accepted species which belong to 19 phyla (17 Animalia and 2 Chromista) as well as 575 relevant literature sources. The database is an open source and is available online through a dynamic webpage hosted under the webpage of WoRMS (<http://www.marinespecies.org/worcs/>). The WoRCS Editor Group consists of 12 Thematic Editors with different roles in terms of taxonomy, management, types of environments and geographic areas covered. The International Symposium for Anchialine Ecosystems provides an excellent opportunity for co-organizing a parallel special “WoRCShop” where WoRCS Editorial Team, data managers and collaborators will be able to present new databases, review the WoRCS 5-year Strategic Plan and to develop a new work plan for 2018-2020.