



## **NBFC Taxonomic Summer Schools: specialised training and social impact**

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All of the National Biodiversity Center's (NBFC) missions, which include monitoring, conservation, restoration, and valorisation of biodiversity, are intrinsically dependent on the ability to recognise species and define their biological and ecological characteristics. Taxonomy is therefore the reference discipline and the foundation for the quality of all studies related to diversity. Faced with a substantial decline in the number of taxonomists globally, particularly among younger generations, and the need to train and update professionals working in the private and public sectors, the NBFC organised a series of taxonomic schools in 2025 to provide specialised training on selected taxa, some of which are relevant to European monitoring protocols. These schools were also supported by meetings dedicated to the role of taxonomy and museology in Italy. The present contribution aims to provide an overview of the schools organised by the NBFC, the taxa covered, the working methods, the main stakeholder groups, and the media and social impact they have had. The paper also aims to consider the NBFC schools in light of those carried out by other organisations from 2000 to the present, highlighting the taxa most considered in Italy and those that require greater attention.