



Aerobiological Information Systems and allergic respiratory disease management AIS LIFE (LIFE13 ENV/IT/001107)

Second annual meeting UPMC, Paris 18-19 January 2017

UNIPI action progress

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UNIPI participation in project actions

A. Preparatory actions

A.1: Set up of an Integrated Information System (IIS) in 3 countries (France, Italy, Austria).

A.2: Set up of an enhanced Personalised Pollen Information system (PPI) in France and Italy.

B. Implementation actions

B.1: Implementation of IIS and PPI in three countries (enrolment, randomisation, educational intervention).

Common to all partners

C.1: Monitoring of the long-term implementation of Aerobiological Information Systems

C.2: Validation and comparison of the effectiveness of two Aerobiological Information Systems

D.3: Stakeholder Involvement Activities

D.4: Target Audience / General Public Awareness Raising

E.1: Overall project operation

E.2: Networking with other projects (no progress to report)

E.3: After-LIFE Communication Plan (no progress to report)





ACTION A.1: Set up of an Integrated Information System (IIS) in 3 countries (France, Italy, Austria)

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: UNIPI

Beneficiaries in Pisa, Paris and Vienna are all involved in the set up of the IIS systems in their areas. UNIFI provides input to Pisa demonstration area.

- 1. Installation of system for monitoring pollen spores
- Completed in Pisa, Paris, Vienna, and Lyon.
- 2. Setting up of data collection of conventional chemical pollutants concentrations

Completed in Pisa, Paris, Vienna, and Lyon via air quality agencies.

3. Installation and development of the non conventional air pollutants (ultrafine particles) monitoring system

Protocol developed and enabled by UPMC, spot monitoring conducted in Pisa, Paris, Vienna, and Lyon.

4. Description of the cycle of pollination and sporulation and the air pollutants concentration

Performed in Pisa, Paris, Vienna, and Lyon based on steps 1, 2.

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ACTION A.2:

Set up of an enhanced Personalised Pollen Information system (PPI) in France and Italy

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: MUW

UNIPI contribution:

- 1. collaboration to the translation of PHD texts into Italian;
- provision of a map of biogeographical regions in Italy;
- defining pollen and spore thresholds in Italy.

ACTION A.2:

Set up of an enhanced Personalige Information system (PPI) in France

Beneficiary responsible for on: MUW

UNIPI contribution:

- collaboration to the
- 2. provision of a
- defining polities

PHD texts into Italian;

raphical regions in Italy;

resholds in Italy.

ACTION B.1:

Implementation of IIS and PPI in three countries (enrolment, randomisation, educational intervention)

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: IFC-CNR

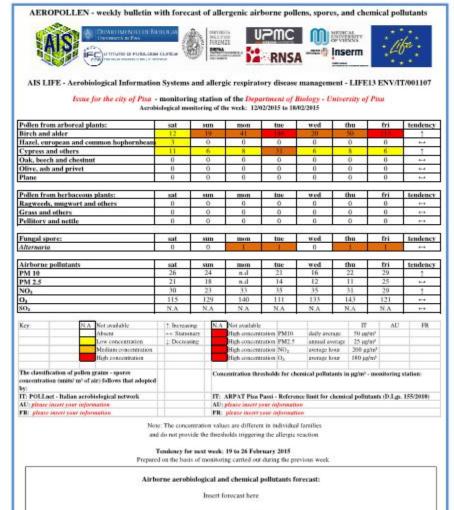
UNIPI contribution: production of IIS forms in two languages

Concentration values and tendency of monitored families and genera

Concentration values and tendency of airborne chemical pollutants

Colors match concentration classes

Aerobiological forecast **Qualitative analysis** Medical recommendations



Qualitative analysis:

Insert qualitative analysis here

Medical recommendations:

Insert medical recommendations here

Monitoring aerobiological by VPPS 2000 or Burkard pollen trap Data acquisition standard for Italy: UNI 11108:2004; for Austria:; for France:





ACTION C.1:

Monitoring of the long-term implementation of Aerobiological Information Systems

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: MUW

UNIPI contribution:

- 1. production of weekly bulletin with concentration classes and tendency of target pollen grains, fungal spores, and airborne chemical pollutants measured in Pisa;
- 2. update of DEX system with pollen forecast for Pisa;
- 3. upload to the EAN database of aerobiological, chemical, and weather data collected in Pisa

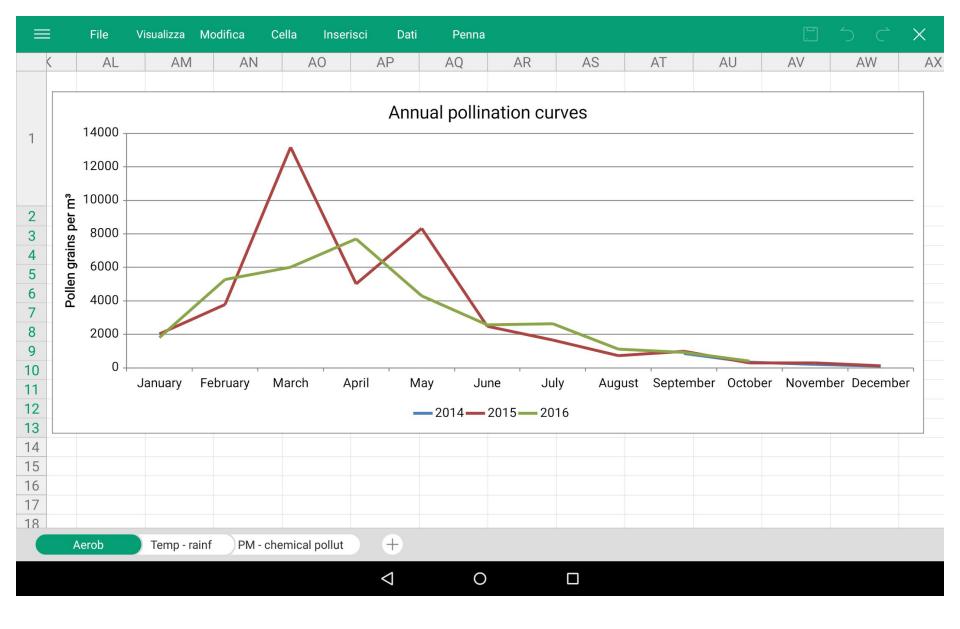
ACTION C.2:

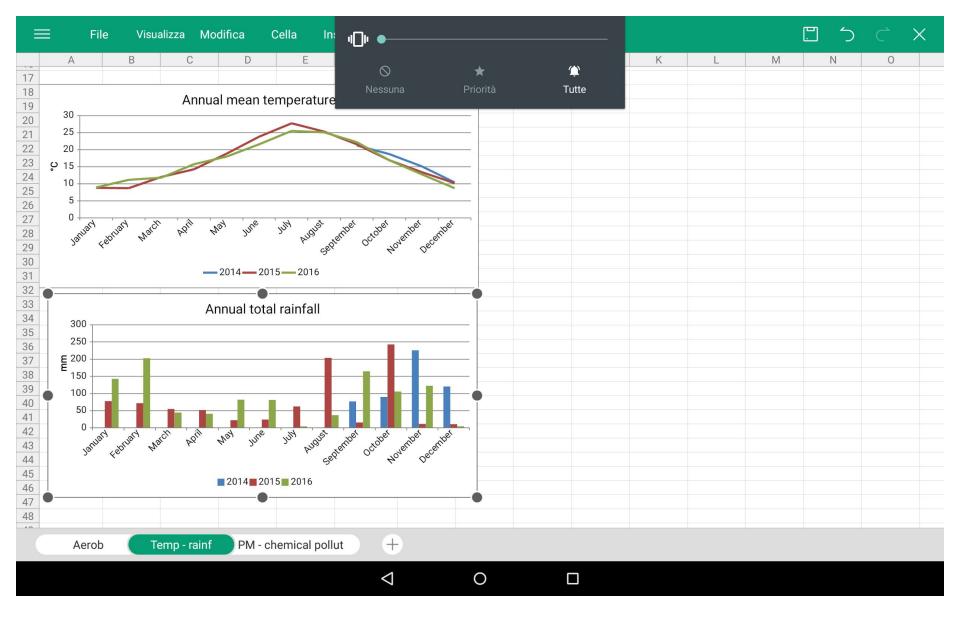
Validation and comparison of the effectiveness of two Aerobiological Information Systems

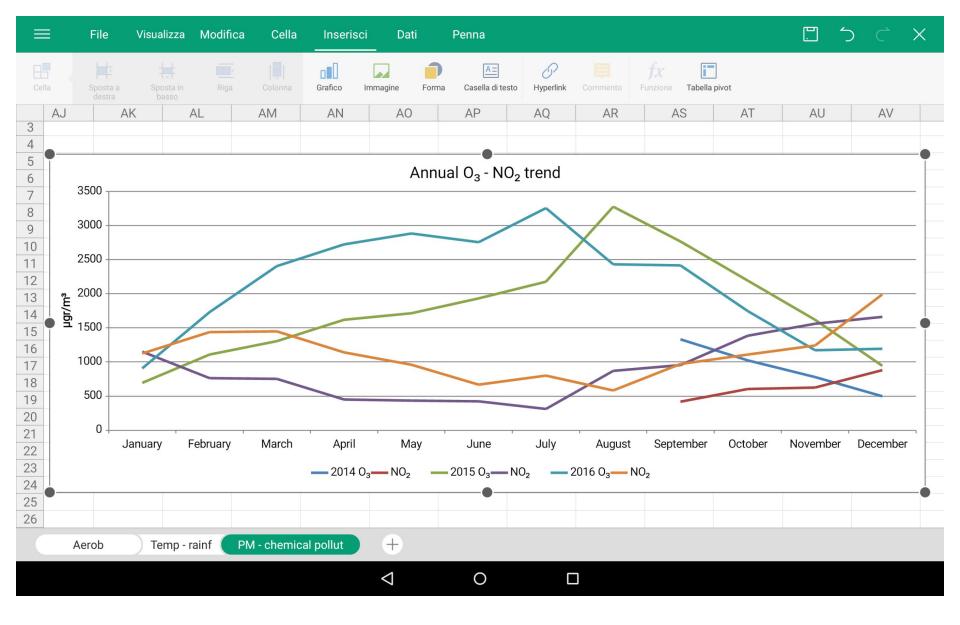
Beneficiary responsible for implementation: IFC-CNR

UNIPI contribution:

 providing daily concentration values of target pollen grains, fungal spores, and airborne chemical pollutants measured in Pisa.







ACTION D.4: Target audience / General public awareness raising

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: INSERM/UPMC

UNIPI contribution:

- 1. poster presentation at the 110th Congress of the Italian Botanical Society, Pavia, September 2015;
- 2. oral presentation to the Biology doctorate students, Pisa, 5 November 2015;
- 3. oral presentation to master students in Conservation and Evolution, Pisa, 27 November 2015;
- 4. public conference in Castelnuovo Garfagnana (LU), June 2016;
- poster presentation at the 6th European Symposium on Aerobiology, Lyon, July 2016;
- 6. poster presentation (two posters) at the 111th Congress of the Italian Botanical Society, Rome, September 2016.







5 = AIS LIFE - Aerobiological Information System and allergic respiratory disease management - LIFE13ENV/IT/001107

Franco Ruggiero¹, Simone Orlandini², Francesca Natali², Lorenzo Cecchi², Sandra Baldacci³, Sara Maio³, Giuseppe Sarno³, Sonia Cerrai³, Patrizia Silvi³, Uwe Berger⁴ MARIJA PRENTOVIC⁴, ISABELLA ANNESI MAESANO⁵, AMIR MOUSTAFA⁵, MICHEL THIBAUDON⁶, SAMUEL MONNIER⁶, GILLES OLIVER⁶, GIANNI BEDINI¹.

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Introduction: The most important biological component of ambient air is pollen, and its allergens are the main cause of airborne allergic respiratory diseases (1). Chemical air pollutants and anthropogenic aerosols can alter the impact of allergenic pollen, while pollen production rises in higher atmospheric CO₂ concentrations (2, 3). Changes in plant flowering season due to climate change will probably result in an increase in the duration and severity of the pollen season, alongside a higher frequency of episodes of urban air pollution (1). Therefore, exacerbations of allergic respiratory diseases will have a more pronounced effect in coming decades (4).

Projects objectives: In this context, AIS LIFE project (http://www.ais-life.eu) aims:

Visualizza

- 1. To improve pollen-related allergic respiratory disease management in the general population, through the permanent uptake of Aerobiological Information Systems in three European countries, contributing to disease control, improved quality of life and direct/indirect reductions in health system costs
- 2. To assess exposure to pollen at the general population level, by considering pollen count and allergens and their interaction with
- 3. To provide a comprehensive evaluation of the use and effectiveness of Aerobiological Information Systems in different contexts, in terms of environmental, social and economic impact (including potential reduction of costs socio-economic costs of respiratory allergies
- 4. To increase awareness among target groups identified across Europe (local communities, local health agency, legislators, end-users) or the importance of integrated information on aerobiological / chemical / clinical forecasts for health improvement among people
- 5. To increase awareness of possible lifestyle changes and preventative measures among sufferers of pollen-related allergic respirator diseases, through the use of the Aerobiological Information Systems and supporting educational initiatives
- 6. To provide input to public health policy on the environment and health, in the project areas and beyond, in line with the recommendations of the Environment and Health Action Plan)

The Project is coordinated by University of Florence and includes five more partners from Italy, France, Austria (please see authors'

Action A1 is now terminated. It included the installation of system for monitoring pollen - fungal spores and the description of the cycles of pollination and sporulation by pollen trap VPPS 2000 (Lanzoni) in Pisa – Paris – Lyon and by pollen trap Burkard in Vienna (please see table 1 and figure 1 – 2 – 3 – 4) to be used in subsequent actions in the Project. Aerobiological data are collected according to a common

The main cycles of pollination and sporulation of selected taxa in Pisa, Paris, and Lyon are shown in figures 5 - 6 - 7 The full dataset is available on the Project web page: http://www.ais-life.eu





district. Long. 2°20 – Lat. 48°52 – Alt. 60 m – Paris - France



the 7th district (Gerland). Long. 0°38 - Lat. 44°12 - Alt. 48 m - Lyon - France



Tab. 1 - Actions in AIS - LIFE Project



Fig. 5 - Pollination curve for Cupressaceae in Pisa - Paris - Lyon



Actions in progess:
Actions A1, coordinated by University of Pisa, and A2, coordinated by the Medical University of Vienna provided by ARPAT and Consorzio LaMMA (Italy); ZAMG and MA22 (Austria); Air Rhône-Alpes, Air Parif, Météo France and Infoclimat (France). Further more ultrafine particle spot monitoring will be

Fig. 7 - Pollination curve for Poaceae in Pisa - Paris - Lyon









(Ais Life) have been set up.



Further dissemination actions will be undertaken in the next months in Italy, France, Austria.

Urticaceae in Paris
 Urticaceae in Lyon
 Urticaceae in Pisa

are terminated, while Actions B1, B2, B3, B4 are now starting.

Aerobiological data are intergrated with meteo data and data on air conventional chemical pollutants

performed in the three countries to investigate relantionship between pollen- spores concentrations, concentional chemical pollutants, ultrafine particles, and exacerbations of allergic respiratory diseases. A newsletter service is available on the web site and a facebook account (Ais Life) and a Twitter account

Fig. 6 - Pollination curve for Urticaceae in Pisa - Paris - Lyon









ALLA CONOSCENZA SCIENTIFICA

Meraviglie e aspetti inediti di un mondo microscopico e misconosciuto

SABATO 25 GIUGNO - ORE 16.00 UNIONE COMUNI GARFAGNANA Castelnuovo Garfagnana - Via V Emanuele 9

Conferenza



5 = FREE ORBICULES OF CUPRESSACEAE IN DAILY AEROBIOLOGICAL SAMPLES

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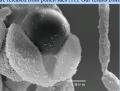
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Introduction: Pollen grains of Cupressaceae are a major cause of pollinosis, especially in Mediterranean countries (1,2), and a strong risk factor for allergic asthma (2, 3). Pollen and orbicules of Cupressaceae carry a carbohydrate epitope recognised by human IgE (4). However, while airborne pollen grains of Cupressaceae are commonly observed in aerobiological monitoring, free orbicules were never reported in aerobiological samples. Within the aerobiological monitoring operated inside the AIS LIFE - Aerobiological Information System and allergic respiratory disease management - LIFE13ENV/IT/001107 project (5), we noticed fuzzy clusters of stained matter associated to pollen grains of Cupressaceae. This work was started to verify if orbicules were included in the clusters and hence visible in the aerobiological monitoring samples.

Materials and Methods: Dried microsporophylls of Calocedrus decurrens (Tort.) Florin, Cupressus sempervirens L. and Juniperus macrocarpa Sibth. & Sm. (Cupressaceae) were fixed to aluminum stubs with double adhesive carbon tape; the latter two species were also gently shaken on the tape, then the stubs were sputter-coated with gold, and observed and photographed with a SEM (6) (JEOL JSM 5410, Jeol Ltd, Tokyo, Japan). Daily aerobiological samples were collected in Pisa, Italy with a "Lanzoni VPPS 2000" pollen trap equipped with pre-siliconed sampling tape Silkostrip (Lanzoni) (Fig. 1- Pollen trap VPPS 2000 Pisa, Italy with a "Lanzoni VPPS 2000" pollen trap equipped with pre-siliconed sampting tape Silkostrip (Lanzoni) (Fig. 1). Sections corresponding to 24-hour intervals were cut from the tape, placed on microscope slides and stained with Globoy, Pisa-Italy fuchsin jelly (7). The slides were then examined with optical (Leica Diaplan) and confocal microscope (Nikon Alplus) at 400x (8).



Results and discussion: We confirmed the presence of orbicules in Calocedrus decurrens microsporophylls (Fig. 2) and observed for the first time free orbicules on the adhesive tape of SEM samples of "shaken" Cupressus sempervirens and Juniperus macrocarpa (Fig. 3, 4). In daily aerobiological samples, we observed with the optical microscope, clusters of very small, well stained dots, around Cupressaceae pollen grains (Fig. 5). When the same samples are observed with the confocal microscope, the cluster is resolved in submicronic particles, ranging from 0.5 to 0.6 um, with the same autofluorescence emission as the exine of the pollen grains, which leads us to identify them as orbicules (9). We were able to observe a large number of orbicules both on the exine of pollen grains of Cupressaceae and as loose bodies around them (Fig. 6). Orbicules have commonly been reported on the exine of pollen grains and on the surface of the tapetum of several species (9, 10), and some authors have inferred that they may become airborne as loose particles when pollen grains are released from pollen sacs (11). Our results confirm such hypothesis with direct observations



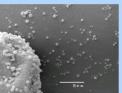


Fig. 3 - Pollen grain and free orbicules of Cupressus sempervirens on adhesive carbon tape

Fig. 4 - Pollen grain and free orbicules of Juniperus macrocarpa on adhesive carbon tape



Fig. 5 - Pollen grains and free orbicules of Cupressus sempervirens in daily aerobiological samples of 03/03/2016 observed with light microscope. Red outline: field observed with confocal microscope

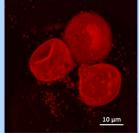


Fig. 6 - The same sample as Fig. 5 (inset) observed with a confocal

Conclusions: For the first time, we proved that orbicules of Cupressaceae can be detected as loose particles in aerobiological samples at the same time as the "parental" pollen grains but vastly outnumbering them. On account of their smaller size, free orbicules can reach - and carry their allergenic load (4) much deeper in respiratory systems than pollen grains. Although further cross-disciplinary research is needed, we hypothesize that free orbicules contribute to the strong correlation of pollinosis with airborne pollen grains of Cupressaceae.

- Bibliographic references:
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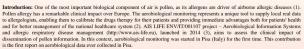
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5= FIRST AEROBIOLOGICAL MONITORING DATA IN PISA (ITALY) WITHIN AIS-LIFE PROJECT

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Materials and Methods: The monitoring covers 21 months of operation of the pollen trap. The sampling procedure and the count of the airborne pollen grains and fungal spores is based on UNI 11108:2004 (4). Aerobiological samples were obtained with a "Lanzoni VPPS 2000" pollen trap installed on top of the Biology Department building in Pisa, via Dema I, about 17 m above the road pavement (coordinates 43.718343° N, 10.395110° E). Pollen grains of eight families: Betulaceae, Cupressaceae – Taxaceae, Asteraceae, Fagacee, Oleaceae, Urticaceae, Poaceae, Platanaceae and spores of Alternaria sp.pl. have been counted every day since 4 November 2014. Cycles of pollination and the main pollen seasons (MPS) for woody plants were calculated according to 5, 6. Herbaceous species and Alternaria were excluded from the calculations because still in active pollination/sporulation at the time of writing. Meteorological data were obtained from www.meteopisa.it and from a weather station placed next to the pollen trap.



oni) on the roof of the building of Biology, Pisa - Italy

Results and discussion: We recorded a cumulative value of 32106.65 pollen grains per m3 and 10683.45 fungal spores per m3 from 1 January to 31 August 2016; the same values for the whole 2015 are 41517.97 and 14861.02 respectively. As regards woody species, the highest value was contributed by Cupressaceae - Taxaceae families, with 8928.40 pollen grains in 2016 and 18047.5 in 2015; followed by Fagaceae with 6884.6 pollen grains in 2016 and 8792,87 pollen grains in 2015; Coryloideae subfamily with 4810.55 pollen grains in 2016 and 2881.47 in 2015; Platanaceae with 4245.15 pollen grains in 2016 and 3640.03 in 2015 and Oleaceae with 3919.55 pollen grains in 2016 and 4938.14 pollen grains in 2015. As regards start date in MPS, all plant families reported were in early for pollination in 2016, expect Coryloideae subfamily. Concerning MPS, Oleaceae family lasted 153 days in 2016 and 129 in 2015. The starting date for Oleaceae family varied from 11 days in 2016 to 30 days in 2015; Betuloideae subfamily varied from 34 days in 2016 to 49 in 2015. As regards the ending date, Betuloideae varied with 94 days in 2016 and with 100 days in 2015. The average temperature of the period 1 January-30 April was 11.9°C in 2016 and 10.9°C in 2015; in the same periods total rainfall was 432.2 mm and 258 mm respectively. Therefore, our data may suggest a correlation between a) temperature and start of MPS, and b) precipitation and pollen concentration of woody species, consistent with observations reported in other studies (7).





Fig. 2 - Monthly mean temperature and total rainfall from January to April 2015 - 2016 in Pisa

Fig. 3 - Annual total pollen grains for woody plants in Pisa 2015 - 2016

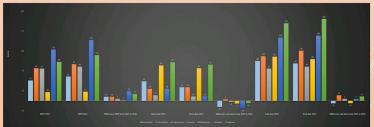


Fig. 4 - Comparison MPS 2015 - 2016 in Pisa

Conclusions: The aerobiological monitoring campaign started in Pisa in 2014 is providing scientific data in support of an on-going European project addressing the clinical impact of dissemination of airborne pollen information. Cupressaceae – Taxaceae are shown to be the most important source of airborne pollen in Pisa, consistent with reports from most Italian and European cities (8, 9, 10). The correlation between meteorological factors and pollen data may help in detecting local changes in climate factors.

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ACTION E.1: Overall project operation

Beneficiary responsible for implementation: UNIFI

UNIPI is a member of the Steering Committee, has designated it's representatives in the scientific and administrative mail lists of the project, and has participated in the kick-off meeting, in two annual meetings (Vienna, June 2015; Paris, January 2017) as well as in the monthly Skype meetings of the Steering Committee.