

ALPONE VALLEY AND ITS PALEONTOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS WORLDWIDE

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ALPONE VALLEY AND ITS DEPOSITS: A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

Alpone Valley represents an exceptional treasure chest for paleontology, due to:

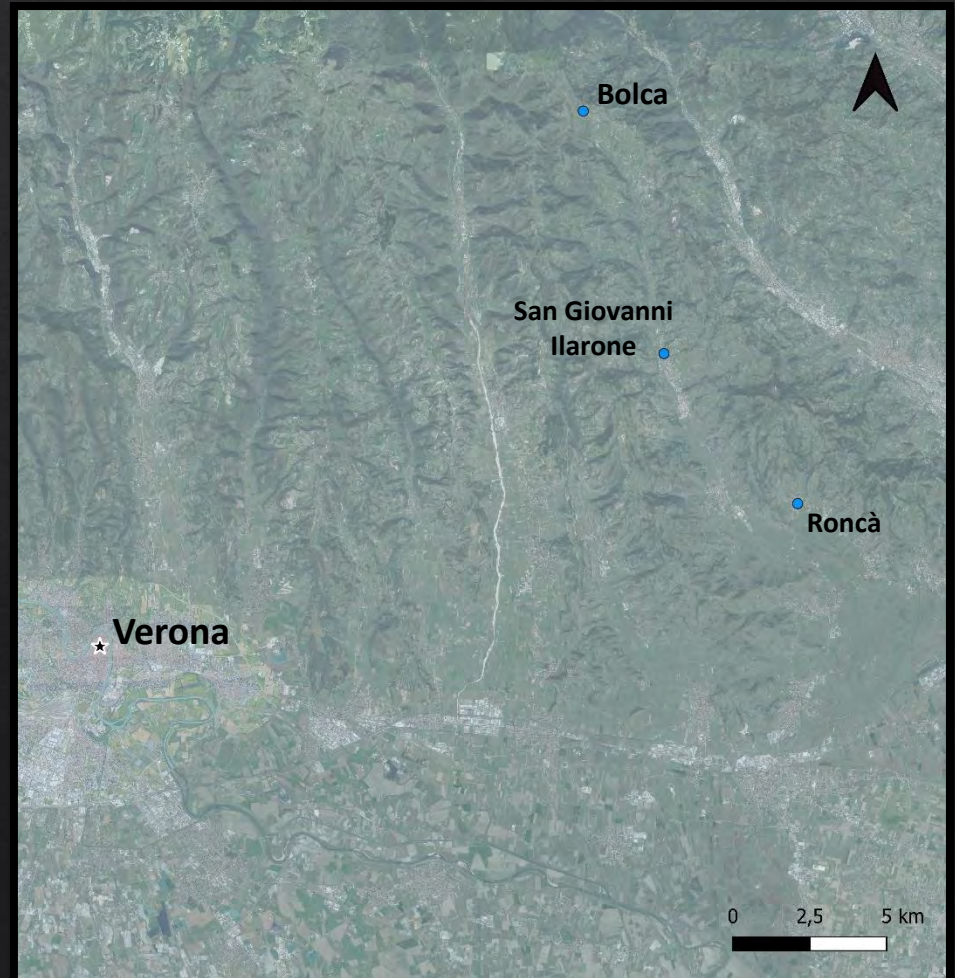


High density of fossiliferous deposits in a restricted area



High scientific value of the specimens recovered

The most known localities, which provide valuable documentation about the Eocene fauna and flora are: Bolca, Roncà and San Giovanni Ilarione.

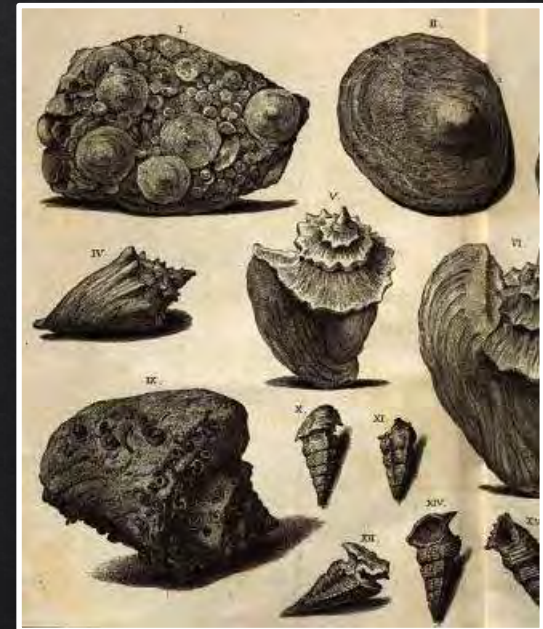


ALPONE VALLEY AND ITS DEPOSITS: A WINDOW INTO THE PAST

RONCÀ

Fossil records from Roncà are known since the seventeenth century and the scientific attention around this deposit grew in the 1700's.

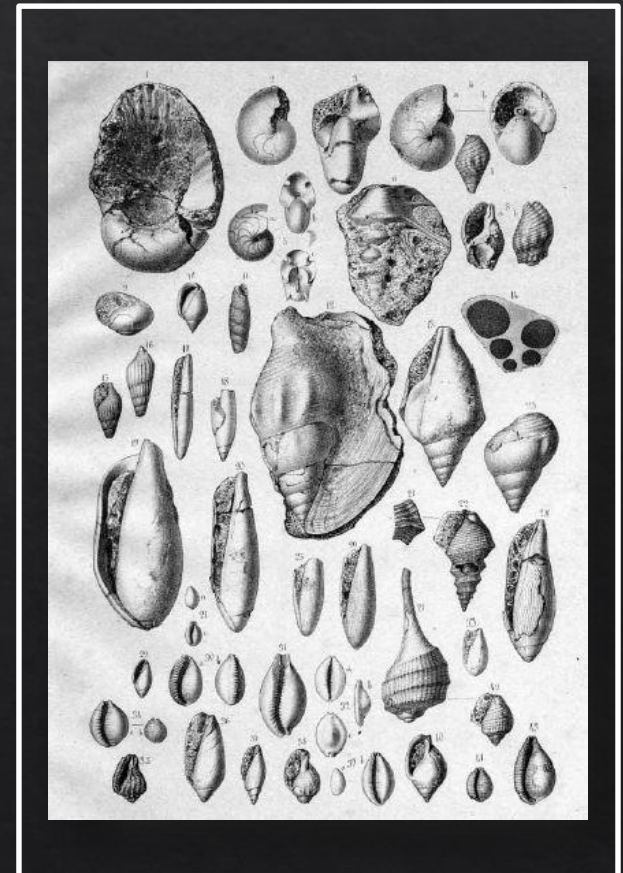
This locality has yielded several fossils but the best known are, among the vertebrates, the bones of sea mammal *Prototherium* sp., from Monte Duello and the abundant remains of invertebrates, especially molluscs (gastropods and bivalves) and foraminifers.



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SAN GIOVANNI ILARIONE

The first mention about fossils from San Giovanni Ilarione dates back to the 20s of the nineteenth century. In that period the scientific community started to describe the mollusc fauna.



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BOLCA

Bolca, with the two main sites, Pesciara and Monte Postale, is the most famous fossiliferous deposit, representing a world-famous example of *Fossil-Lagerstätte*, due to the high concentration and conservation of organisms.

Known since, at least, the mid-1500s, Bolca is indissolubly linked, in the collective memory, to fossil fish recovery.

Anyway in this area have been also found fossil remains of plants and other animals both vertebrates and "minor fauna".



THE PROJECT

We know that many fossils have been found through the centuries in these deposits, but what does it remain of this heritage in the collections and where is it distributed now?

A project carried out in the last year at the Natural History Museum of Verona and in working progress, had the aim to give some first answers for a preliminary knowledge of the current conservation situation of the specimens recovered in these localities.

It was conducted, in fact, a cognitive survey in order to monitoring the paleontological heritage from these three main sites of Alpone Valley, kept in Italian and foreign museums and collections.

The aim of this work is to be useful for scientific research and a more awareness of what is the museum paleontological heritage.





PROJECT : PALEONTOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS FROM ALPONE VALLEY

THIS SURVEY HAS THE AIM TO COLLECT DATA, ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF FOSSILS COLLECTIONS FROM BOLCA AND ALPONE VALLEY AREA, IN INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS.

WHO FILLS THIS FORM ?

Name Surname

Telephone e-mail

MUSEUM OR COLLECTION

Address

Town code Country

1. DO YOU HAVE FOSSILS, IN YOUR COLLECTIONS, FROM ONE OR MORE OF THESE LOCALITIES SITED IN ALPONE VALLEY?

BOLCA	RONCA'	S. GIOVANNI ILARIONE
<input type="checkbox"/> VERTEBRATES	<input type="checkbox"/> VERTEBRATES	<input type="checkbox"/> VERTEBRATES
<input type="checkbox"/> INVERTEBRATES	<input type="checkbox"/> INVERTEBRATES	<input type="checkbox"/> INVERTEBRATES
<input type="checkbox"/> PLANTS	<input type="checkbox"/> PLANTS	<input type="checkbox"/> PLANTS

NO FINDINGS

3. HOW MANY ARE THE FINDINGS FROM ALPONE VALLEY?

VERTEBRATES

<50 50-100 >100

INVERTEBRATES

<50 50-100 >100

PLANTS

<50 50-100 >100





4. DO YOU HAVE MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ?

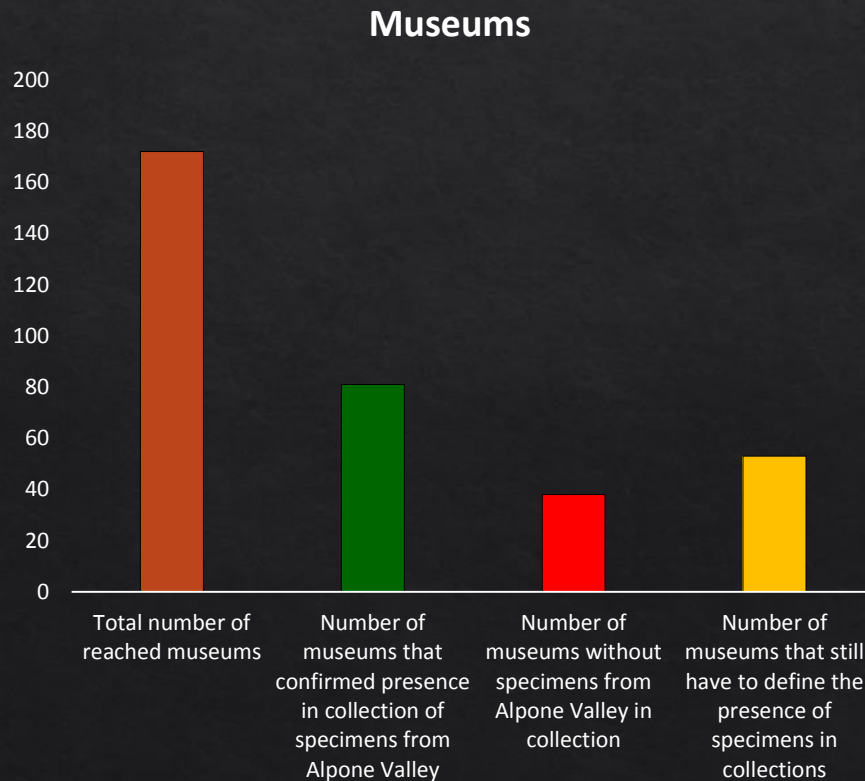
BOLCA	RONCA'	S. GIOVANNI ILARIONE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Fishes n. <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles n. <input type="checkbox"/> Birds n. • PLANTS n. • INVERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Jellyfishes n. <input type="checkbox"/> Coral n. <input type="checkbox"/> Crustaceans n. <input type="checkbox"/> Insects n. <input type="checkbox"/> Gastropods n. <input type="checkbox"/> Bivalves n. <input type="checkbox"/> Other n. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Fishes n. <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles n. <input type="checkbox"/> Mammals n. • PLANTS n. • INVERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Coral n. <input type="checkbox"/> Crustaceans n. <input type="checkbox"/> Insects n. <input type="checkbox"/> Gastropods n. <input type="checkbox"/> Bivalves n. <input type="checkbox"/> Cephalopods n. <input type="checkbox"/> Other n. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Fishes n. <input type="checkbox"/> Reptiles n. • PLANTS n. • INVERTEBRATES <input type="checkbox"/> Coral n. <input type="checkbox"/> Crustaceans n. <input type="checkbox"/> Insects n. <input type="checkbox"/> Gastropods n. <input type="checkbox"/> Bivalves n. <input type="checkbox"/> Other n.

Notes

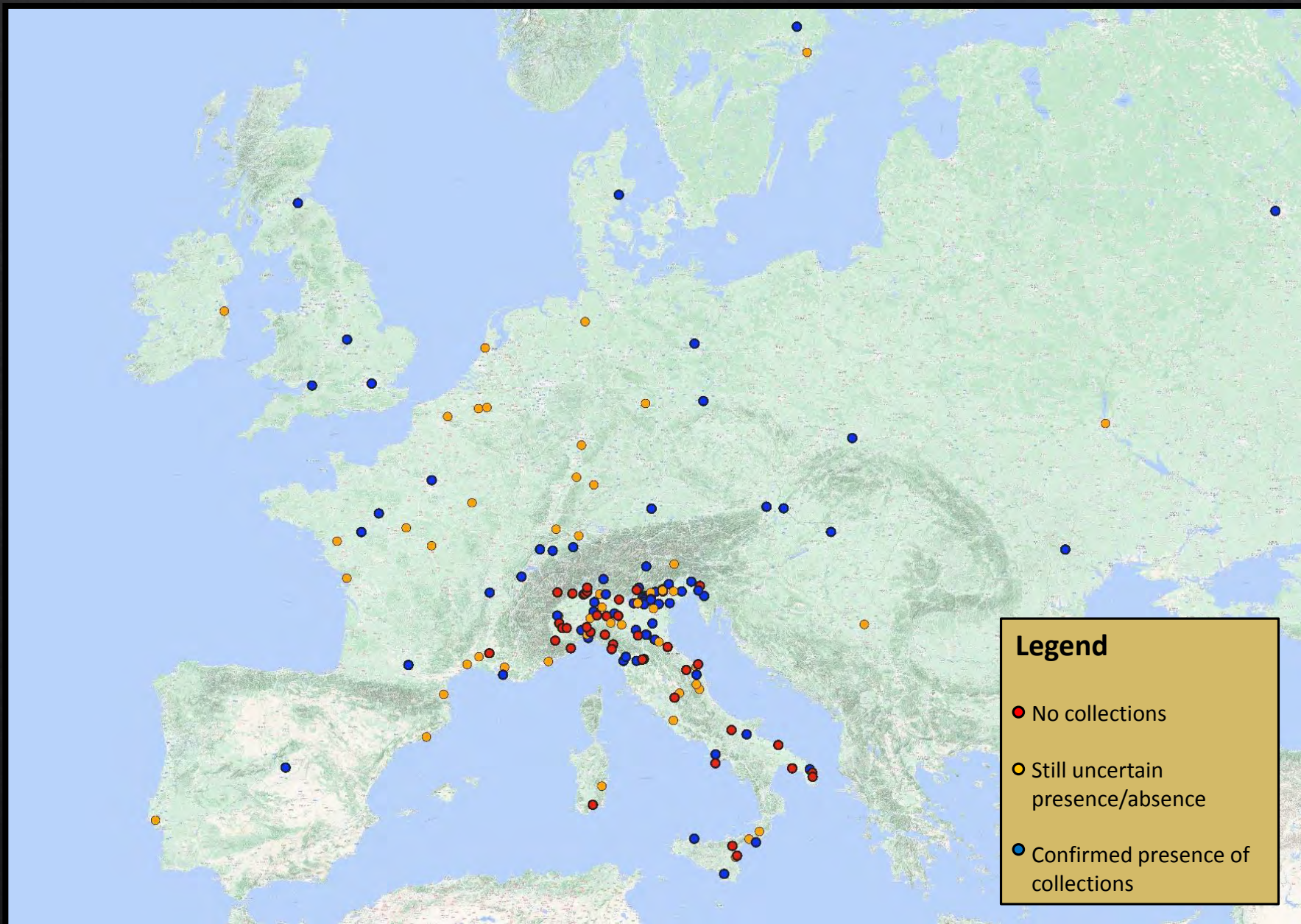
Comune di Verona
Museo di Storia Naturale

FIRST RESULTS

- ❑ A short questionnaire has been submitted to a first list of 172 selected museums.
- ❑ Unfortunately, the difficult situation, linked to Covid-19 pandemic, created some complications for many museums in order to find and recovery data requested.
- ❑ Problems associated to the absence of a complete digitized archive and to access the collections.



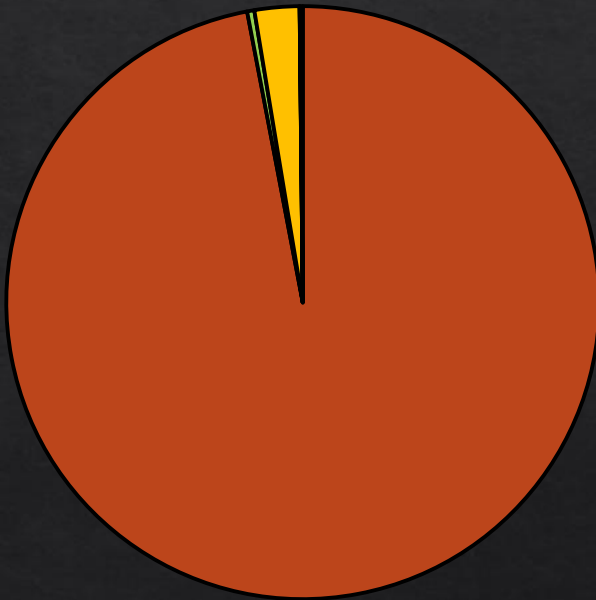
THE MAP OF COLLECTIONS



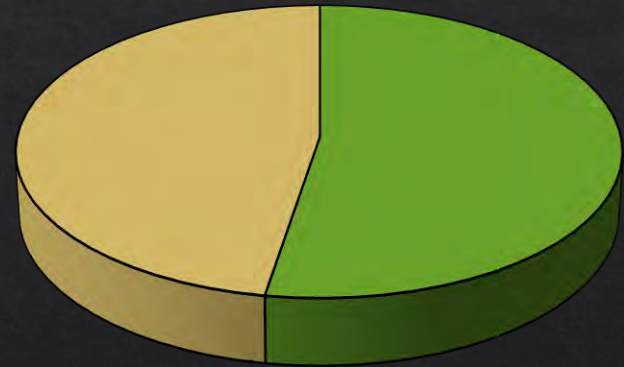
THE MAP OF COLLECTIONS



RONCÀ COLLECTIONS

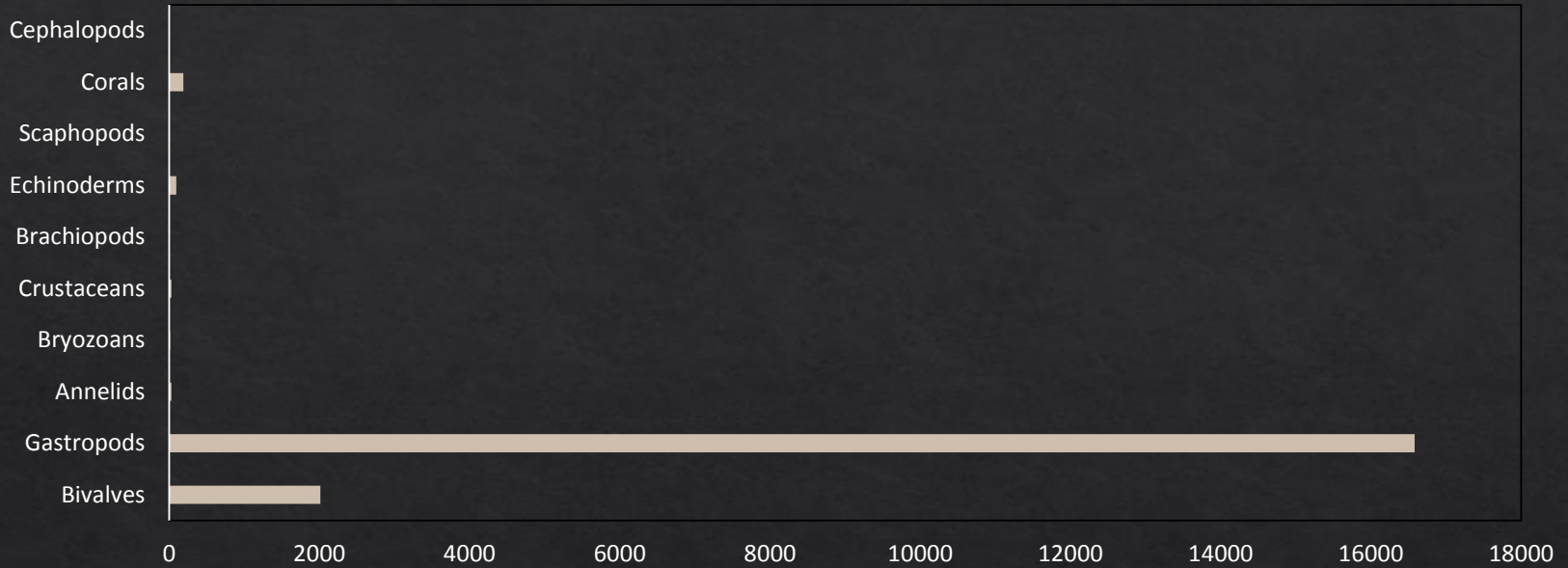


■ Animals ■ Plants ■ Foraminifera ■ Ichnofossils ■ Uncertain

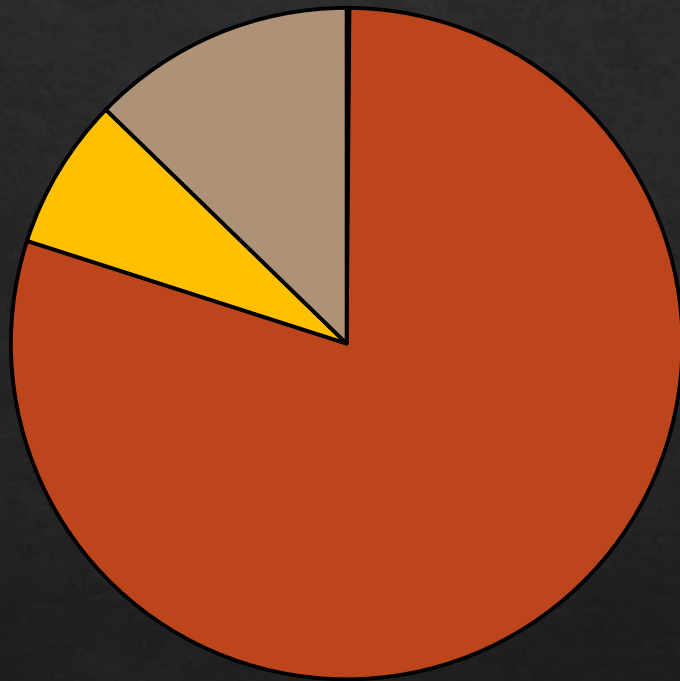


■ Natural History Museum of Verona
■ Other collections

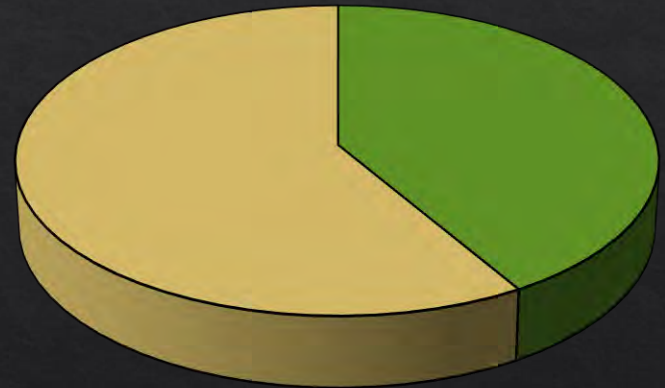
RONCÀ COLLECTIONS



SAN GIOVANNI ILARIONE COLLECTIONS

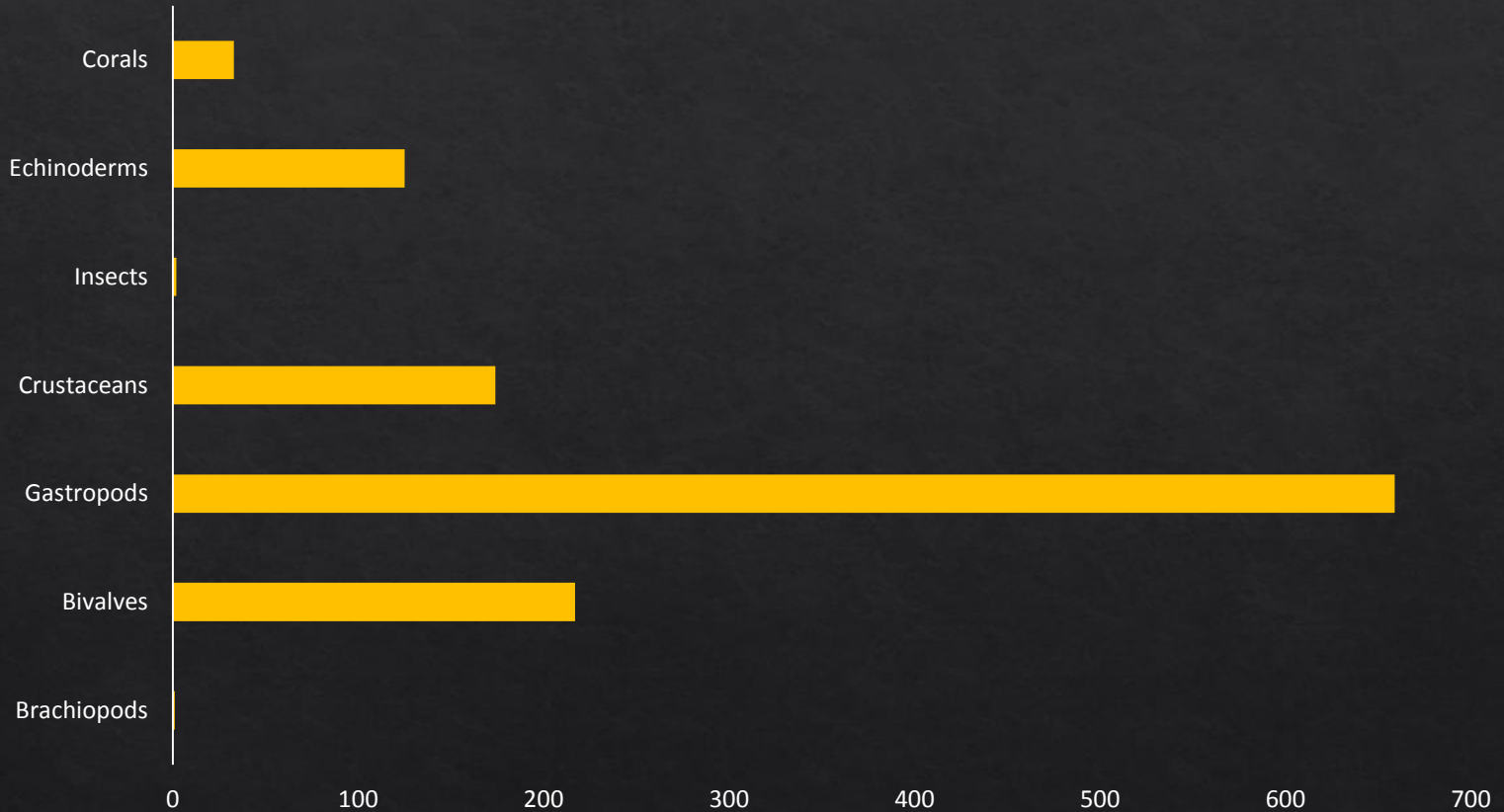


■ Plants ■ Animals ■ Foraminifera ■ Uncertain

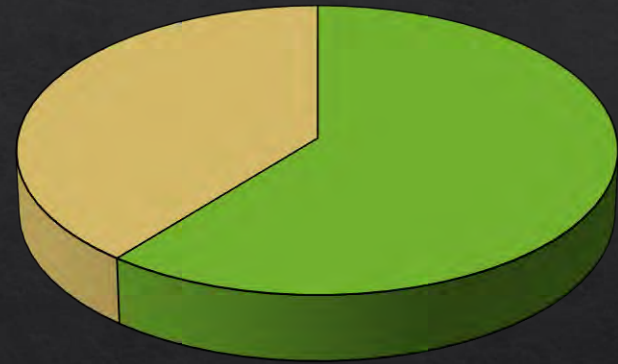
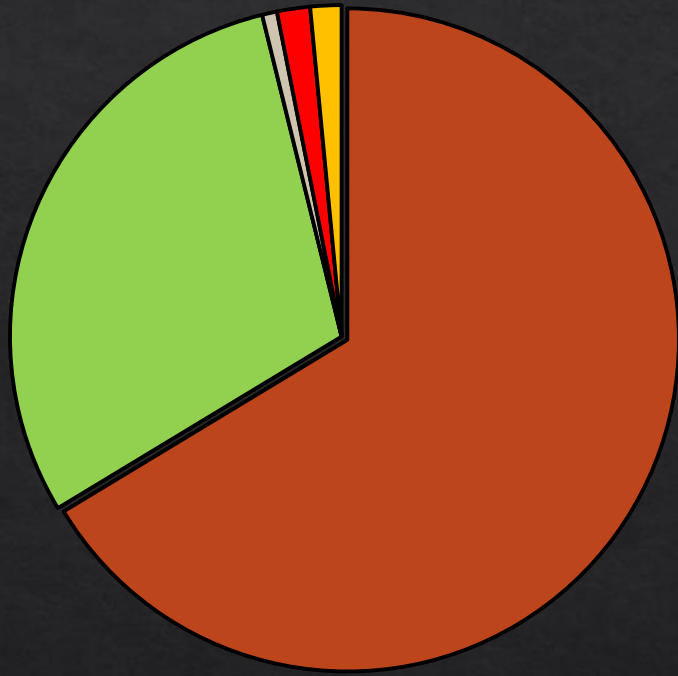


■ Natural History Museum of Verona
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SAN GIOVANNI ILARIONE COLLECTIONS



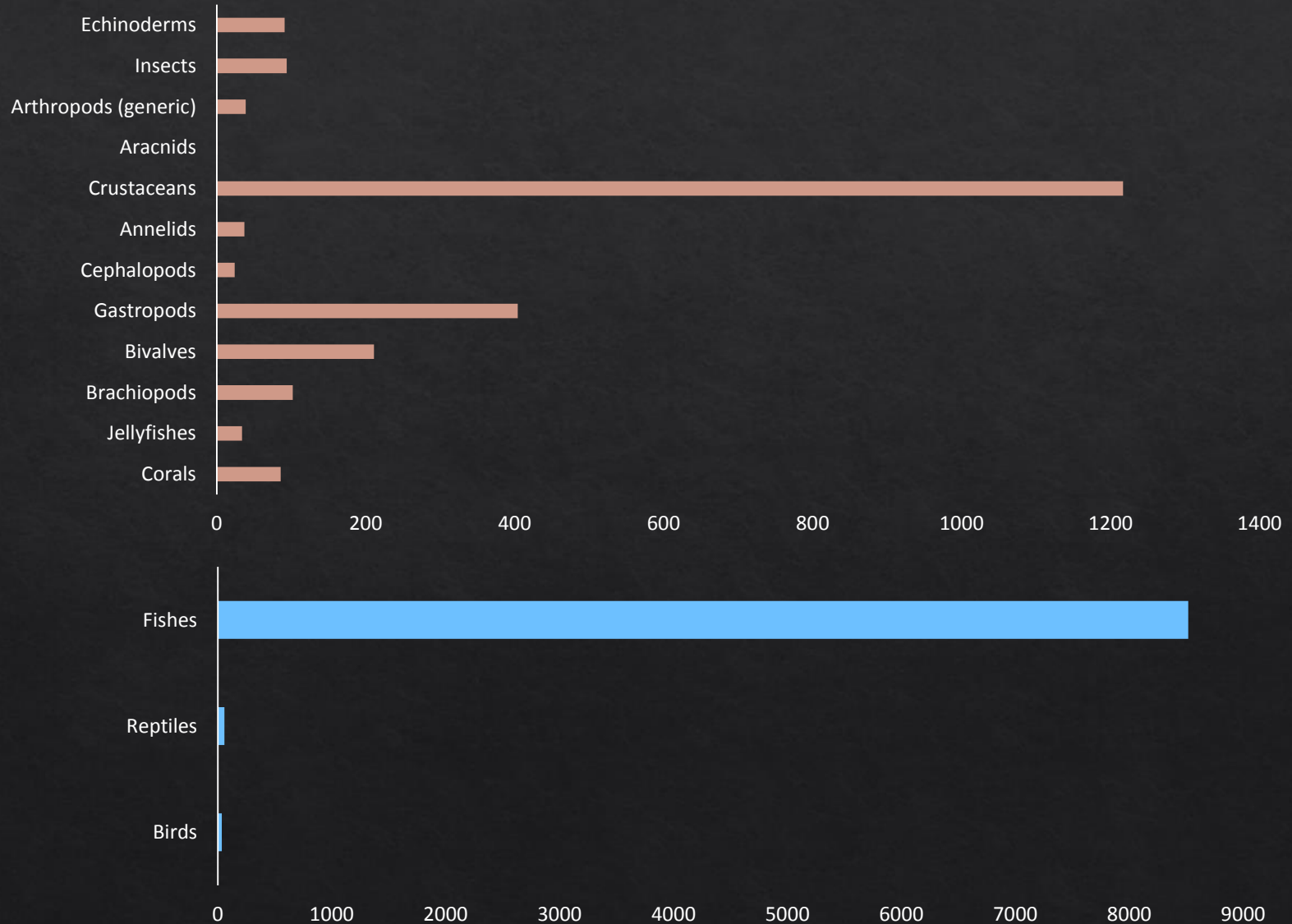
BOLCA COLLECTIONS



■ Animals ■ Plants ■ Ichnofossils ■ Uncertain ■ Foraminifera

■ Natural History Museum of Verona
■ Other collections

BOLCA COLLECTIONS



CONCLUSIONS



The presence of specimens, from Alpone Valley, in Italian and foreign collections, is associated both to donation and to museum acquisitions, often in historical periods. The collection of Natural History Museum of Verona is implemented also by scientific excavation campaigns realized still at present days.



Although the actual amount of specimens from Alpone Valley, hosted in the museum collections, is totally underestimated, due to loss of information through time and to the hidden world of private collections, the data, till now collected, underlines and confirms the extraordinary importance of the paleontological heritage of Alpone Valley.



The work is a preliminary contribution to verify the effective distribution of the paleontological collections related to Alpone Valley and estimate their consistency.



The goal of the project is to promote knowledge on the extent of the paleontological heritage as a support and enhancement of research.



Importance of a museum network to promote information exchange.

Do you have warning about this project ?

Don't hesitate to contact us!

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