

The 20th International Symposium on Chironomidae

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For the **first time** in its history, the International Symposium on Chironomidae will be organized in Italy. The XX edition of the symposium will be held at the MUSE- Museo delle Scienze in Trento, July 2017.



Town centre, the Cathedral. Photo: Matteo Ianeselli / Wikimedia Commons / CC-BY-3.0& GFDL.

Prince Bishops turned the Buonconsiglio castle into one of the best known castles in the whole of Europe and Trento (historically known in English as Trent) is the capital of the Trentino Province, a mountain region located in the heart of the Alps. The Province covers an area of more than 6,000 km², with a total population of about 0.5 million. Trento lies in the Adige valley just south of the Dolomite Mountains, where the Fersina River and Avisio rivers join the Adige River, the second longest river in Italy. The town centre is more or less a pedestrian area, and walking around the historic centre you can see a number of outdoor frescos on historic buildings.

MUSE- Museo delle Scienze (previously Museo Tridentino di Scienze Naturali) is one of the main cultural centers of the city and was built along the banks of the Adige. It manages, in addition to the main museum located close to the city centre, a network of six museums and local offices at the provincial level and one in Tanzania. MUSE, that traces back its origin in the mid XIX century, is the first museum in Italy that harmoniously blends nature, science and technology, devoted to research, visitor interpretation and education. Since 2013 the museum has been located in a new building whose outline recalls the profile of the surrounding mountains, with a finely balanced contrast between



MUSE and Trento city. Photo: Hufton+Crow, MUSE Archive. MUSE, the building. Photo: Roberto Nova, MUSE Archive.

empty and full spaces that adds charm and prestige to the entire exhibition venue. Built on eco-compatible criteria, MUSE combines characteristics from both traditional natural science museums and modern science centers in a very innovative way.

MUSE has traditionally carried out multidisciplinary research activities, both basic and applied, in the field of the environment with particular attention to the issue of biodiversity and ecology of mountain ecosystems. Participants will have the possibility to visit the exhibition halls of the new museum at any time during the congress. Visits or research in the museum's collections will be also possible (the natural history and archaeological collections of the MUSE account about 300 collections and 5 millions objects, of which the oldest were collected more than two centuries ago).



Noce Bianco glacial stream, Trentino, Italy. Photo: Valeria Lencioni, MUSE Archive.

The scientific program will be developed through a series of sessions during which various issues will be addressed, from systematics to biogeography, ecology and biomonitoring. Mid- and post conference trips will be organized to enjoy alpine freshwaters and chironomid sampling in the Alps, to appreciate artistic heritage of Trento and of the neighboring towns (e.g. Verona, famous in the world for the lyrical season in the Arena, the ancient amphitheatre built by the Romans) and to taste the delicious local food and wines.

The nearest airports are Verona, Venice and Milan. The faster connection with Trento from these airports is by train (about 3 hours from Milan and Venice, one hour from Verona).

MUSE and Trento will welcome you in 2017 to attend the XX International Symposium on Chironomidae. We are proud to host it.