

## Paleontology and Paleoecology

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### RESEARCH TOPICS

Research activity of the paleontology team deals with:

- Systematics, biomineralization and functional morphology of reef scleractinian corals (FRB);
- Facies analysis and paleoecological reconstruction of Mediterranean Cenozoic coral reef systems (FRB, AV);
- The response of coral assemblages to major Cenozoic paleoenvironmental and climatic changes (FRB);
- Paleozoic marine ecosystems: age, fossil community evolution and ancient geographic scenarios (AF);
- Geomicrobiology and organism-sediment interaction in extreme environments (AF);
- Morphometric analysis in past and living organisms (AF);
- Larger foraminiferal assemblages (nummulitids, orthophragminids and alveolinids) of the Cenozoic and their use for biostratigraphy and palaeoecology (CAP);
- Study of the “nummulite banks” to determine their origin and lithogenetic significance (CAP);
- Archaeometric studies on the palaeontological content of sedimentary rocks used to build historical monuments and coming from archaeological sites (CAP);
- Develop and evolution of carbonate depositional systems in relation to climate changes during the Cenozoic (AV);
- Cenozoic encrusting reef-building organisms (calcareous algae, vermetids, encrusting foraminifera) and their use as palaeoclimatic and palaeoenvironmental markers (AV).

