

Luca SIMONETTO

(25.1.1964-12.2.2023)

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Fig. 1. Luca SIMONETTO at the summit of Mt. Zermula, one of the main Devonian reefs of the Carnic Alps.

Luca SIMONETTO was the responsible of the Geological and Palaeontological collection of the Friulian Natural History Museum in Udine, north-east Italy.

He was passionate in geology and palaeontology, mainly of the Carnic Alps, and more in general of Friuli, his native region. Already as a high school student, due to his passion for geology and palaeontology, he got in touch with the Friulian Museum of Natural History, collaborating in the organization of exhibitions. Later, as an external collaborator, he took care of the revision and reorganization of palaeontological collections, and he continued his activity when he got a position as a technician of the Museum. The result of his dedication is that now the geological and palaeontological collection includes more than 130.000 specimens organized according to the most modern criteria.

The activity of managing this collection often brought him into contact with specialists from all over the world interested in Friulian

fossils and geology. However, his activity was not limited to simple support. He was actively involved in research lines developed by Italian and foreign universities and institutions: among many others, those interested in the Palaeozoic Sequence of the Carnic Alps (Universities of Bologna, Modena and Reggio Emilia, Cagliari, Trieste and Graz, the Austrian Geological Service, the Natural History Museum of Bozen, etc.).



Fig. 2. Luca during the preparation of the exposition on the Devonian reefs of the Carnic Alps (Tolmezzo, UD, 2016).

He spent several weeks in the field with colleagues and friends, and during field research, he never missed an opportunity to collect material in order to enrich the museum's collections. He was an active member of the Working Group, which redefined the lithostratigraphy of the Pre-Variscan sequence of the Carnic Alps (2008-2015). Also, he was involved in the organization of several international meetings, congresses, and field trips. Among those, the IGCP 596 final meeting (Udine, 2016), "Geological research in the Carnic Alps – from past to future" (Udine 2019), and the field trips in the Carnic Alps connected to the IGCP 580, 4th Annual meeting (Graz 2012), 4th International Conodont Symposium (Valencia, 2017), and the 13th International Symposium on Fossil Cnidaria and Porifera (Modena 2019).

Luca SIMONETTO is (co-)author of about 100 papers, mainly devoted to the geology and palaeontology of Friuli, mainly of the Carnic

Alps. Among these, several addressed Devonian topics. Despite his huge knowledge and strong professionalism, Luca will be remembered and missed especially because of his humanity and kindness, his friendship, hospitality (his house was always open to everybody for sharing a beer or a meal) and a fine sense of humour.



Fig. 3. Maria G. CORRIGA, Luca SIMONETTO, Thomas J. SUTTNER, Erika KIDO, and Monica PONDRELLI (from left front to right) at Cason di Lanza Hut during the 2010 field campaign in the Carnic Alps.

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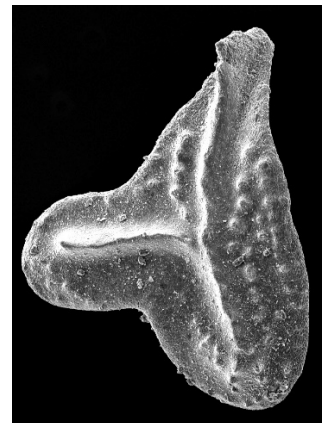
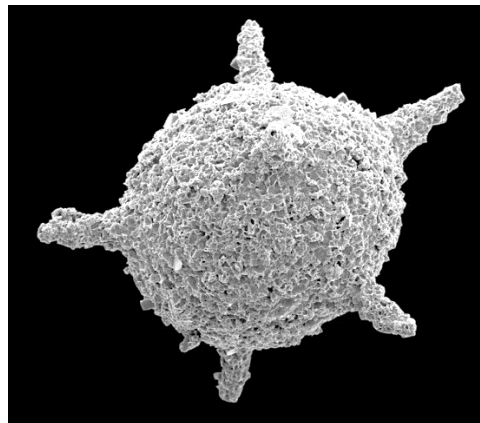
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