7th Workshop of the Hydrozoan Society

HS
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Porto Cesareo, Lecce (Italy)

ISOLA LO SCOGLIO
COMPLESSO ALBERGHIERO

Graphics - Fabio Tresca

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dedicated to Jean Bouillon, Volker Schmid, and Wim Vervoort

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Oral

INTERACTIVE KEYS TO IDENTIFY ARCTIC MEDUSOZOA

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The dialogue computer diagnostic system with usage of the FoxPro language for generation, analysis and subsequent perfection for the machine multientry polytomous keys was elaborated. Initial information was converted in to the database of DBF format compatible with dBase, FoxBase, FoxPro, Clipper systems. The previous effort to optimize identification of the higher taxa of the Medusozoa were made using the computer system BIKEY (Biological Identification KEYs worked out in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences). The data for BIKEY-7 were prepared as multientry polytomous digital tables. Each computer key in these tables consisted of three components: list of taxa (in our case – 5 for the first step), list of characters (in our case – 10 for the first step) and character states. The matrix of taxa and character-states data made possible to analyse five classes: Scyphozoa, Staurozoa, Cubozoa, Hydrozoa and Siphonophora (Stepanjants classification). At this stage of our research a particular software to use the Internet technology is developing which grants an extensible approach to our databases and keys round the world.