



Denise Bellan-Santini (1937-2025)

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Having completed all her primary and university studies in Marseille, having a taste for marine research, Denise naturally joined the Endoume Marine Station in the early 1960s. After a 3rd cycle thesis defended in 1962 on 'Floristic and faunal study of some sublittoral stands of bedrock' at the Aix-Marseille II University, then she defended her thesis ès Sciences at the University of Marseille II in 1967 on '*The contribution to the study of infralittoral populations on rocky substrates (qualitative and quantitative studies*' under the supervision of Professor René Molinier. She joined the CNRS as a research fellow on 1th October 1962.

Her first research consisted to study the structure and functioning of natural populations of hard substrates from the Mediterranean shallow waters of the Marseille region, where she took a large part of her diving samples. As coastal pollution increases, she has studied the disturbances exerted on populations and species, particularly amphipods. She was one of the first scientists to highlight the link between pollution and amphipods, which proved to be very good indicators of pollution.

Denise Bellan-Santini participated in and was even president of several scientific committees throughout her long career: President of the Benthos Committee of the Commission for the Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea from 1978 to 1984; Expert with the FAO; Member of the Administrative committee of Port-Cros from 1983 to 1986 and of the Scientific Council from 1986 to 1992; Member of the "Biotopi Marini Committee" of the Italian Ministry of Ambiente from 1998 to 2000; Expert at the Regional Activity Centre for Special Areas (RAC/SPA) of UNEP in 1996. Involved very early on in the prefiguration bodies of the Calanques National Park, she naturally became the first President of its Scientific Council, a title she held between 2012 and 2018, before joining its administrative committee. She was during several decades a member and the President of the '*Regional Scientific Council for Natural Heritage*' at the PACA region. Finally, Denise Bellan-Santini was Honorary President of the Scientific Council of the '*Côte Bleue*' Marine Park since 2021, and had been President of the first Scientific Council for nearly 10 years from 2001 to 2010.

In parallel with her work on coastal ecosystems of hard substrate, she was very early interested in Amphipod Crustaceans, which are very dominant in the vagile fauna of these shallow areas. It is on this research activity that we pay homage, who was for several decades one of the most productive amphipodologists of her generation based on morphological descriptions of these very diverse crustaceans, present in all freshwater and aquatic ecosystems, from beaches to the deepest ocean trenches.

Denise Bellan-Saantini has published more than 100 articles on amphipods, the first in 1962 and the last in 2024, i.e. 62 years of activity on this group that she has studied throughout her career. Denise worked in collaboration with many colleagues on this group, including her colleague and friend Michel Ledoyer of the Endoume Marine Station and Richard Kaïm-Malka, with whom she was very close throughout her long career on the Ampeliscidae, *Ampelisca* and *Haploops*. For many years, she worked with Professor Sandro Ruffo, Director of the Natural History Museum of Verona in northern Italy, which allowed her to reconnect with her Italian origins during her many visits to Verona. Moreover, her collections of amphipods are largely kept in Verona where she went every year, with Gérard and Gaëlle, their husband and daughter, to work on amphipods but also to attend the magnificent operas of this northern Italian city. It was also within the "*La Società Italiana di Biologia Marina*" (S.I.B.M.) that she met many Italian colleagues at the congresses in which she regularly

participated. She participated at several International Colloquium of Amphipoda, especially at the 8th Colloquium in September 1994 at Lodz, organised by the Professor Krzysztof Jazdzewski in Poland. It was the last participation to the Professor Sandro Ruffo to these regular Colloquium on Amphipod which meet the specialists of amphipod all around the world.

She also published a dozen notes with Professor J.C. Marques when he began his career as a scientist on amphipods. But it was with the Professor Jean-Claude Dauvin that she produced the most scientific articles from the beginning of their collaboration in 1979 to 2024. As a member of his 3rd Cycle thesis jury, she introduced him to work on amphipods and in particular on Ampeliscidae of the genus *Ampelisca*. It was during the defence that she predicted that working on the *Ampelisca* is a never-ending story and when you start you don't know when it will end. This was realized. Their first note dates from 1981 with the description of *Ampelisca armoricana*. Their collaboration did not stop at their work on amphipods but extended more broadly to joint work on terminology in benthic ecology, the typology of marine habitats, and the need to better understand them in order to better preserve them.

A total of 118 valid species, in WORMS, has been described by Denise, in addition to three genera and one family. Although the family Ampeliscidae is the one that has been the most worked on (33 species including 26 *Ampelisca* and 7 *Haploops*), Denise has described amphipod species belonging to 36 families, including ten Tryphosidae, six species from the families Eusiridae, Stenothoidae, Urothoidae each and 5 from the family Iphimediidae.

Four major facts emerge from Denise Bellan-Santini's career

In the first place, it is worth mentioning his very active contribution with the Professor Sandro Ruffo and many other colleagues to the co-authoring of the four volumes of the Mediterranean fauna *The Amphipoda of the Mediterranean*, which was published from 1972 to 1998. This fauna is still widely used to identify the amphipods of this sea. In reality, it took more than 20 years of work by nine researchers of different nationalities. All species have been reviewed and redrawn, their taxonomic affiliation re-discussed, an illustrated key has been developed, and the ecological and geographical distributions have been reviewed. All the work has been done not only with old collections but with new ones that have sometimes been made for the wildlife needs. In this colossal work, Denise has written four families, summary chapters on Ecology, Faunistic and Biogeography. In addition, due to various unforeseen health problems of the official publisher Sandro Ruffo, she has taken over part of the editing work.

Secondly, the writing of the chapter on Amphipods in the treatise on Zoology, by Professor P.P. Grassé in 1999. It is a synthesis of all knowledge on the anatomy, systematics and biology of amphipods. An English version was even published in 2015. It is an indispensable source of knowledge about amphipods.

From the beginning, Denise has participated as coordinator for the Western Mediterranean in the European Community's ERMS Concerted Action "*A register of marine species in Europe to facilitate marine biodiversity research and management*". Together with the Professor Mark Costello (project leader), she wrote all the documents concerning the Amphipods (1183 species) ERMS. Denise also participated in the development of the "*Synopsis of Antarctic Amphipods*" and in the description of several species from Antarctic and sub-Antarctic

collections. She has been an editor of WoRMS (World Register of Marine Species) for the family Ampeliscidae since the inception of this database.

It was on this last family that Denise worked throughout her career, first in the context of the fauna of the Mediterranean, where she described with Richard Kaïm-Malka 15 species new to science. With Jean-Claude Dauvin, she synthesized all the existing data on the *Ampelisca* of the North-East Atlantic at the end of the 1990s from the point of view of biology, ecology, geographical and bathymetric distribution, and reviewed a number of collections, including that of Edouard Chevreux, in order to make a comparative synthesis and a phylogenetic study. Among the other genera of the family Ampeliscidae, the genus *Haploops* was first synthesized in 1990, then the genus *Byblis* in 1993. Finally, Denise, alongside Richard and Jean-Claude, have produced a revision of the *Haploops* genus of the North Atlantic from material from collections around Iceland and Faroes and from Pierre Brunel, Professor at the Université de Montréal, collections in the Quebec waters, and have described six new species of the genus *Haploops* over the past decade.

In addition to these four highlights of Denise Bellan-Santini's work, she has worked on other aspects of knowledge about amphipods. In order to improve the knowledge of the Mediterranean Amphipoda fauna and to raise more generally, the problem of the origin and evolution of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the dangers that threaten its integrity, she has organized and directed two deep dredging campaigns in the Mediterranean: Biomède 1 (1976) and Biomède 2 (1981). These missions provided a wealth of material that would demonstrate the importance of deep endemism in the Mediterranean and lead it to search for the affinities of bathyal species in order to deepen the history and future of this deep Mediterranean fauna. Her work was not limited to the Mediterranean, as she studied Antarctic, sub-Antarctic, Atlantic, bathyal and abyssal collections. In addition to her systematics work, including descriptions and revisions of genera and families, Denise was keen to extend her research to studies of ecology, biogeography and phylogeny of amphipods.

Denise leaves us a considerable set of works that will mark the study on marine amphipods as a researcher at the CNRS, where she continued to work as Director of Research Emeritus until today. Tireless and stubborn, a woman of character, firmly attached to equity, she leaves a considerable reference work for oceanography researchers in the Mediterranean and more broadly in the World Ocean. Denise was a scientific personality who marked several generations of young marine biologists and ecologists not only at the Endoume Marine Station and for the Mediterranean but also for the world community of amphipodologists. His commitment has been recognized by a Legion of Honor (Knight), the rank of Officer of Maritime Merit and of the Order of Merit.

Recognized by the entire national and European scientific community, she is a great researcher of science who has left us. Denise is survived by his loving husband Gérard well-known as polychaetologist and her daughter Gaëlle who accompanied them, bringing all their scientific career and sharing in particular the many congresses in which Denise and Gérard participated. Gaëlle was very well known by marine biologists. Denise met Gérard, who was born in Normandy, at the Station Marine d'Endoume at the end of the 1950' and they remained very close throughout their scientific careers at Marseilles.

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List of species described by Denise Bellan-Santini classified by family

Acanthonotozomellidae

Acanthonotozomella trispinosa (Bellan-Santini, 1972) described as *Paracanthonotozoma trispinosum* Bellan-Santini 1972

Ampeliscidae

Ampelisca anophthalma Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca antennata Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca armoricana Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 1981
Ampelisca calypsonis Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca dallenei Bellan-Santini, 1985
Ampelisca intermedia Bellan-Santini & Diviacco, 1990
Ampelisca islandica Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 1996
Ampelisca jaffaensis Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca ledoyeri Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca lenaldei Bellan-Santini, 1985
Ampelisca lusitanica Bellan-Santini & Marques, 1987
Ampelisca massiliensis Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca melitae Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1985
Ampelisca monoculata Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1985
Ampelisca multispinosa Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca parabyblisoides Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1996
Ampelisca planierensis Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca provincialis Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca pseudosarsi Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca pseudospinimana Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca remora Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 1986
Ampelisca ruffoi Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca sorbei Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1996
Ampelisca toulemoniti Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1982
Ampelisca truncata Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Ampelisca vervecei Bellan-Santini & Kaim-Malka, 1977
Haploops antarctica Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 2008
Haploops bjarnii Bellan-Santini, Kaim-Malka & Dauvin, 2018
Haploops faroensis Kaim-Malka, Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 2021
Haploops gascogni Dauvin & Bellan-Santini, 1996
Haploops islandica Kaim-Malka, Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 2016
Haploops quebecois Bellan-Santini, Kaim-Malka & Dauvin, 2018
Haploops truncata Kaim-Malka, Bellan-Santini & Dauvin, 2021

Amphilochidae

Gitanopsis alvina Bellan-Santini & Thurston, 1996

Atylidae

Nototropis massiliensis (Bellan-Santini, 1975) described as *Atylus massiliensis* Bellan-Santini, 1975

Bathyporeiidae

Bathyporeia phaiophthalma Bellan-Santini, 1973

Calliopiidae

Bouvierella curtirama Bellan-Santini & Thurston, 1996

Conicostomatidae

Stomacontion acutibasalis (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974) described as *Acontiostoma acutibasalis* Bellan-Santini et Ledoyer, 1974

Didymocheliidae Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Didymochelia edwardi Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Endevouridae

Ensayara carpinei Bellan-Santini, 1974

Epimeriidae

Epimeria (*Subepimeria*) Bellan-Santini, 1972

Epimeria (*Subepimeria*) *geodesiae* (Bellan-Santini, 1972) described as *Subepimeria geodesiae* Bellan-Santini 1972

Eusiridae

Eusirus tridentatus Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974

Dorotea aberrantis (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987) described as *Eusiroides aberrantis* Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1986

Rhachotropis flamina Bellan-Santini, 2006

Rhachotropis licornia Bellan-Santini, 2006

Rhachotropis pilosa Bellan-Santini, 2006

Sennaia Bellan-Santini, 1997

Sennaia bidactyla Bellan-Santini, 1997

Haustoriidae

Haustorius orientalis Bellan-Santini, 2005

Iphimediidae

Echiniphimedia imparidentata (Bellan-Santini, 1972) described as *Pariphimediella imparidentata* Bellan-Santini 1972

Gnathiphimedia incerta Bellan-Santini, 1972

Gnathiphimedia urodentata Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1986

Nodotergum Bellan-Santini, 1972

Nodotergum bicarinatum Bellan-Santini, 1972

Parapanoploea longirostris Bellan-Santini, 1972

Ischyroceridae

Bathyphotis crenatipes (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1986) described as *Pseudischyrocerus crenatipes* Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1986

Kergueleniidae

Kerguelenia adeliensis Bellan-Santini, 1972

Kerguelenia antiborealis Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Lepidepecreellidae

Lepidepecreella tridactyla Bellan-Santini, 1972

Leucothoidae

Leucothoe atosi Bellan-Santini, 2007

Leucothoe ayrtonia Bellan-Santini, 1997

Liljeborgiidae

Liljeborgia (Liljeborgia) kerguelenensis Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974

Liljeborgia (Liljeborgia) pseudomacronyx Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Oedicerotidae

Monoculodes anophthalma Bellan-Santini, 2007

Oediceropsis bicornuta Bellan-Santini, 2007

Pardaliscidae

Pardalisca brachydactyla Bellan-Santini, 1985

Pardalisca mediterranea Bellan-Santini, 1985

Phoxocephalidae

Harpinia intermedia Bellan-Santini, 1997
Harpinia pico Bellan-Santini, 2007
Proharpinia barbada Bellan-Santini, 1997

Pleustidae

Stenopleustes rainbowi Bellan-Santini, 2007

Podoceridae

Podocerus danae armatus Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987
Xenodice portuguesi Bellan-Santini, 2007

Podosiridae

Podosirus Bellan-Santini, 2007
Podosirus vaderi Bellan-Santini, 2007

Pontogeneiidae

Gondogeneia spinicoxa Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Luckia Bellan-Santini & Thurston, 1996
Luckia striki Bellan-Santini & Thurston, 1996
Paramoera kergueleni Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Schraderia acuticauda Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974

Maeridae

Ceradocopsis dufresni Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Scopelocheiridae

Scopelocheirus polymedus Bellan-Santini, 1985

Stegocephalidae

Andaniopsis integripes (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987) described as *Andaniella integripes* Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1986
Pseudo pseudophippsia (Bellan-Santini, 1985) described as *Phippsiella pseudophippsia* Bellan-Santini, 1985
Stegocephalina pacis (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974) described as *Stegophippsiella pacis* Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Steleuthera ecoprophycea Bellan-Santini & Thurston, 1996

Stenothoidae

Antatelson antennatum Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Antatelson rostratum Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Mesoproboloides spinosa Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Stenothoe divae Bellan-Santini, 2005

Stenothoe marvela Bellan-Santini, 2005
Stenothoe menezgweni Bellan-Santini, 2005

Stilipedidae

Alexandrella inermis Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Synopiidae

Syrrhoites capricornia Bellan-Santini, 1985
Syrrhoites cornuta Bellan-Santini, 1985

Talitroidae

Britorchestia ugoninii (Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1991) described as *Talorchestia ugoninii* Bellan-Santini et Ruffo, 1991
Sardorchestia peleciformis (Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1986) described as *Talorchestia peleciformis* Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1985

Tryphosidae

Hippomedon macrocephalus Bellan-Santini, 1972
Hippomedon massiliensis Bellan-Santini, 1965
Lysianella morbihanensis (Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974) described as *Orchomene morbihanensis* Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Onesimoides mediterraneus Bellan-Santini, 1974
Orchomene kaikoi Bellan-Santini, 1990
Orchomene stocki Bellan-Santini, 1990
Orchomenella ultima (Bellan-Santini, 1972) described as *Orchomene ultima* Bellan-Santini 1972
Orenoqueia Bellan-Santini, 1997
Orenoqueia serrata Bellan-Santini, 1997
Pseudonesimoides Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974
Pseudonesimoides cornutilabris Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1974

Uristidae

Stephonyx carinatus Bellan-Santini, 1997
Stephonyx incertus Bellan-Santini, 1997
Tmetonyx palpiserrata Bellan-Santini, 1985

Urothoidae

Carangolia cornuta Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987
Urothoe atlantica Bellan-Santini & Menioui, 2004
Urothoe corsica Bellan-Santini, 1965
Urothoe hesperiae Conradi, Lopez-Gonzalez & Bellan-Santini, 1995
Urothoe intermedia Bellan-Santini & Ruffo, 1986
Urothoe marionis Bellan-Santini & Ledoyer, 1987

Valettiopsidae

Valettietta punctata Bellan-Santini, 1985

List of publications by Denise Bellan-Santini concerning amphipods

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Bellan-Santini, D., 1962a. Etude du peuplement des "dessous de blocs non ensablés" de la partie supérieure de l'étage infralittoral. *Recueil des Travaux de la Station Marine d'Endoume* 27(42), 185-196.

Bellan-Santini, D., 1962b. Etude floristique et faunistique de quelques peuplements infralittoraux de substrats rocheux. *Recueil des Travaux de la Station Marine d'Endoume* 41 (26), 237-298.

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Bellan-Santini, D., 1963b. Méthode de récolte et d'étude quantitative des peuplements sur substrat dur dans la zone d'agitation hydrodynamique, Méthodes quantitatives d'études du benthos et échelle dimensionnelle des benthontes. *Rapports et procès-verbaux des réunions de la Commission Internationale pour l'Exploitation Scientifique de la Mer Méditerranée*, 23-24.

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Bellan-Santini, D., 1964. Etude qualitative et quantitative du peuplement à *Cystoseira crinita* (Bory). *Recueil des Travaux de la Station Marine d'Endoume* 46, 34-50.

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