

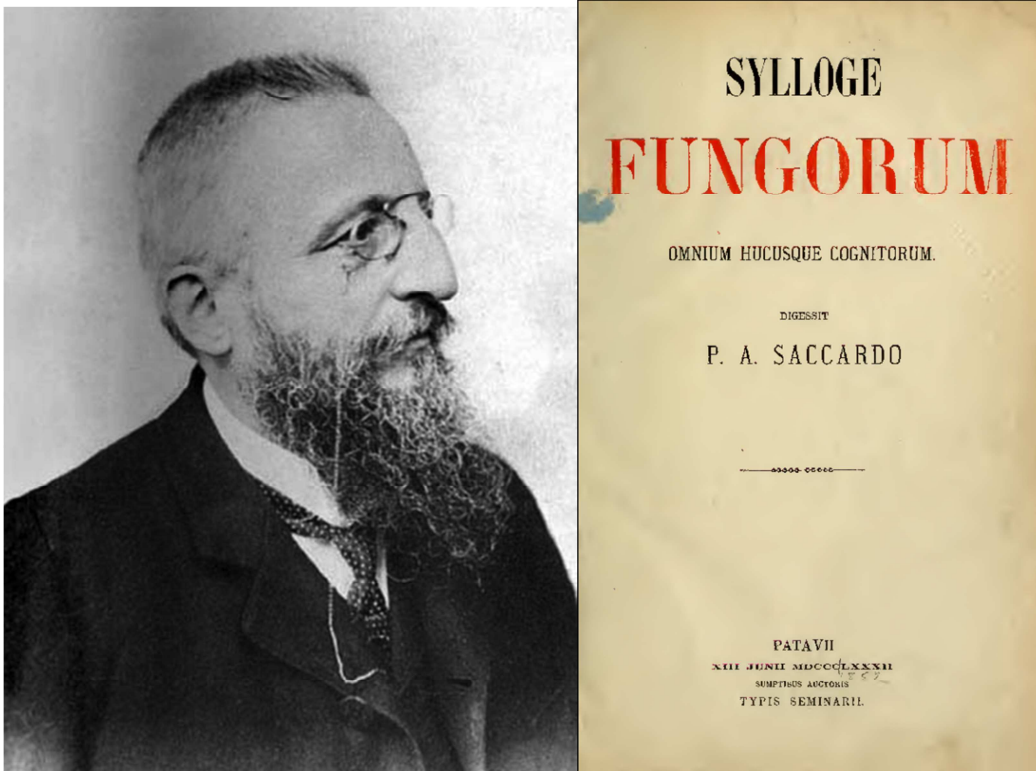
Line 1 – Plants biodiversity, Evolution and systematics

MOLECULAR CHARACTERIZATION OF FUNGI FROM SACCARDO'S MYCOLOGICAL HERBARIUM

People involved: Barbara Baldan

Project description

The main objective of this research project is the molecular identification of fungal specimens belonging to one of the most important collections in the world: Pier Andrea Saccardo's mycological herbarium. The collection, that started around 1874, is composed by almost 70,000 specimens comprising over 18,500 different species, a good number of them being defined as types, namely fungi used for the description of a new species and consequently unique. This collection, preserved at the Botanical Garden of Padua, has a special scientific importance due to the presence of various specimens that have been used by Saccardo for the morphological descriptions of new fungal species. For this purpose, it will be necessary to develop a method for the extraction of DNA from ancient herbarium material and to select specific molecular markers to be used for the univocal identification of the species in the collection. Then, the obtained data will be used for the creation of a database, accessible to the national and international mycological community, in which the analyzed species of the collection will have linked the relevant molecular information used for their identification. These studies are carried out by collaborations with Prof.M.Girlanda and Prof.A.Vizzini (Turin University).



Pier Andrea Saccardo (1845-1920), director of the Botanic Garden of Padova from 1879 to 1915.
Sylloge Fungorum husque cognitorum omnium, by PA Saccardo