

Action CA18239



## Workshop on sphaeriids



Location: Montpellier (France)  
Date: 06<sup>th</sup> – 07<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Duration: 2 full days

Tutors: Ian Killeen and Vincent Prié  
Number of participants: 10.

Participants will be accommodated in a youth hostel in Mèze, a typical small Mediterranean port. Mèze is about 30 minutes from the city of Montpellier, where the seminar will take place.



A minibus will be hired to take people to and from the workshop and for the excursion.

Microscopes will be provided, including a video stereo microscope.



## The Sphaeriids workshop

The main aim of this workshop is to provide an introduction to collection and identification of sphaeriid bivalve molluscs using traditional and eDNA techniques. The course will cover taxonomy, distribution conservation, ecology and habitats, collection and preservation, but will primarily focus on tuition to allow participants to acquire the skill and confidence to identify species of this so called difficult group.

The course will cover the commonest and most widely distributed species in Europe. Much of the time will be spent by examining and identifying the provided samples of sphaeriids, mostly collected from Ireland, Britain and France from a range of habitats and geographical areas. Participants are also encouraged to bring along samples of sphaeriids collected in their own countries, but if time and weather conditions permit, it might be possible to sample from local waterbodies.

The workshop will also provide an introduction and guidance on the use of eDNA. It will begin with the basics of molecular taxonomy, the limits of using short fragments for identifying species and the current potential pitfalls when using eDNA for sphaeriids identification. If needed, a short presentation of the basics of eDNA can be provided too at this occasion.

A field trip is planned in the Rhône delta (Camargue) to learn about field sampling, and the specimens collected will be identified once back in the lab.



*Excursion planned in the Camargue delta*