

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Algae
(EBEA)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique –
CNRS

Université Pierre et Marie Curie - UPMC

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Universidad Austral de Chile

Station Biologique de Roscoff - SBR

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Xavier Vekemans, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the expert committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the expert committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

This report is the sole result of the unit's evaluation by the expert committee, the composition of which is specified below. The assessments contained herein are the expression of an independent and collegial reviewing by the committee.

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Algae
Unit acronym:	EBEA
Requested label:	UMI
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	UMI 3614
Head of the unit (2017-2018):	Ms Myriam VALÉRO
Project leader (2019-2023):	Ms Myriam VALÉRO
Number of themes:	3

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Xavier VEKEMANS, Université de Lille (representative of CoNRS)

Experts: Mr Debashish BHATTACHARYA, Rutgers University, USA
Mr Dominique DE VIENNE, Université de Paris-Sud
Mr Arthur GROSSMAN, Carnegie Institute Stanford, USA
Mr Xavier NESME, Inra Lyon (supporting personnel)
Ms Carole SMADJA, CNRS Montpellier (representative of CNU)

HCERES scientific officer:
Mr Steven BALL

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
Ms Martine HOSSAERT, Centre national de la recherche scientifique
Mr Stéphane REGNIER, Université Pierre et Marie Curie

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The UMI 3614 laboratory of Evolutionary Biology and Ecology of Algae (EBEA) was created in 2014 with five hosting institutions: CNRS and UPMC in France, and PUC and UACH in Chile. In France, the UMI is one of the units of the SBR. This international laboratory is spread across three distinct sites: Roscoff (France), Santiago and Valdivia (Chile).

The scientific collaboration between members of the French and Chilean teams dates back to the 1990s, but administratively the joint laboratory started in 2003 with the creation of an international associated laboratory between SBR and PUC.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The management team is composed of the unit director, Ms Myriam VALÉRO (France), and the deputy director, Mr Sylvain FAUGERON (Chile).

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1_2.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The UMI 3614 research activities address the fields of evolutionary biology, ecology, and conservation biology with a specific focus on marine “algae” organisms (in a broad sense) including both unicellular (“microalgae”) and multicellular (“seaweed”) taxa. These scientific activities combine fundamental research objectives in relation to the study of biodiversity tackled with theoretical, empirical, and experimental approaches as well as applied research goals in relation to the exploitation of algal bioresources.

UNIT WORKFORCE

Unit workforce	Number 30/06/2017	Number 01/01/2019
Permanent staff		
Full professors and similar positions	2	2
Assistant professors and similar positions	3	4 to 5
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	1	1
Other scientists (“Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.”)	0	0
High school teachers	0	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	5	6 to 7
TOTAL permanent staff	12	14 to 16

Non-permanent staff		
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	0	
Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	3	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	11	
PhD Students	5	
TOTAL non-permanent staff	19	
TOTAL unit	31	

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The research activities of the unit are of high quality and tackle three important topics in evolutionary ecology with distinct methodological approaches while sharing a common set of original biological models (micro and macro-algae). Such biological models have remained poorly investigated taxonomically and ecologically, although they possess some very interesting evolutionary properties such as alternation of autonomous haploid and diploid phases and/or within species co-occurrence of sexual and asexual reproduction, and have sometimes important ecological functions.

The unit is taking strong benefit from its international status which allows a relevant combination of expertise, excellent opportunities to access to natural populations of distinct biological models with complementary properties, large access to a wide diversity of funding sources, and synergistic scientific interactions between sites. In addition, unit members have an excellent dynamics for student training, fund raising, international collaborations, outreach activities, and for developing high profile international research in Chile.

The main weakness could lay in the unit involvement in too many questions on too many model species, taking into account the personal resources of the Unit. However, the knowledge and expertise about numerous biological models coupled with new technologies, some of which are currently set up in the unit, are a driving force that will generate novel findings and create new research directions.

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