

REPORT ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Integrative Biology of Marine Organisms (BIOM)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

Université Pierre et Marie Curie

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2017-2018
GROUP D



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the expert committee²:

Didier Casane, 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: | Integrative Biology of Marine Organisms |
| Unit acronym: | BIOM |
| Requested label: | UMR |
| Application type: | Renewal |
| Current number: | UMR 7232 |
| Head of the unit (2017-2018): | Mr Hervé MOREAU |
| Project leader (2019-2023): | Mr Hector ESCRIVA |
| Number of teams: | 6 |

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair: Mr Didier CASANE, EGCE CNRS, Gif-Sur-Yvette (representative of CoNRS)

Experts: Mr Yvan BOUBLIK, CRBM CNRS Montpellier (supporting personnel)
Mr Didier BOUCHON, EBI Université de Poitiers (representative of CNU)
Mr Simon SPRECHER, Université de Fribourg, Switzerland
Ms Dolors VAQUE, Marine Science Institute Barcelona, Spain

HCERES scientific officer:
Mr Jean-Francois HOCQUETTE

Representatives of supervising institutions and bodies:
Ms Anne LE SEACH, UPMC
Mr Jean-Maurice DURA, CNRS

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

This research unit was created on January 2011 as the UMR 7232 CNRS (INSB) – UPMC whose name is “Biologie Intégrative des Organismes Marins (BIOM)”. It belongs to the “Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls”. Mr Hervé MOREAU was the director of the UMR 7232 during the two first contract periods. This UMR has consequently a short history and the internal organization for the new contract (2019-2023) maintains the current global organization with some modifications of the internal teams.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

The executive management of the UMR will be assumed by the director, Mr Hector ESCRIVA.

HCERES NOMENCLATURE

SVE2_3; SVE1_1.

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

Research in BIOM is essentially academic. The studies carried out in the different teams of the unit include a quite broad spectrum of scientific fields ranging from ecology to developmental and cell biology. All research directions share the originality of using non-conventional marine model organisms for comparative studies. Different research themes are developed by six teams: E1) Evolution and development of chordates (H. ESCRIVA and S. BERTRAND); E2) Development and evolution in ascidians (S. DARRAS); E3) Development and evolution of vertebrates (S. MAZAN); E4) EcoEvoDevo of coral reef fishes (V. LAUDET); E5) Evolutionary and environmental genomics of phytoplankton (N. GRIMSLEY and G. PIGANEAU); and E6) interactions between fishes, microbiota and ectoparasites (Y. DESDEVISES).

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 | 3 |
| Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions | 6 | 6 |
| Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions | 2 | 2 |
| 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) | 10 | 9 |

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| TOTAL permanent staff | 23 | 22 |
| Non-permanent staff | | |
| Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus | 0 | |
| Non-permanent full time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs | 5 | |
| Non-permanent supporting personnel | 5 | |
| PhD Students | 5 | |
| TOTAL non-permanent staff | 15 | |
| | | |
| TOTAL unit | 38 | |

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

The unit is organized as a federation of six small teams: two working on chordate evo/devo, one on vertebrate evo/devo, one on eco/evo/devo in fishes, one on marine unicellular green algae and their viruses and one working on interactions between fishes, microbiota and ectoparasites. All share the originality of using non-conventional marine model organisms, carefully selected to address impacting fundamental biological questions, even though these models are often not easy to use. The recent integration of two new groups is considered as a major asset as they bring new ideas and methods that could be shared with the other teams, even if it also implies the addition of novel organism models already quite numerous. The recent splitting of one small team into two even smaller teams may not be that beneficial for the unit organization.

The management of the unit appeared simple, well adapted to its size and well accepted by all members. The visiting committee did not identify any trouble inside the unit. The flow of information and the possibility of discussions between the various staff categories appeared sufficient.

Most members of the unit have very good publication tracks at the quantitative and qualitative levels. They are involved in much national and international collaboration. Nevertheless, the committee found that the level of interactions between the teams is insufficient.

Globally, BIOM is a very dynamic and efficient unit that use original approaches from developmental biology to population genetics, at different organization levels, from molecules to communities, to address very fundamental questions in biology.

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