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decision makers, though. The problem rests with the scientific community. The perception of taxonomy as an obsolete discipline comes from within the scientific community. Even Nature publishes articles stating that taxonomy is extremely important, but then the money allocated to taxonomy mostly goes to information and technology for the building of databases that provide information. This is necessary but it is not sufficient. Taxonomists cannot find jobs because they do not attract proper funding. Taxonomists produce the knowledge that makes information available. Information without knowledge is not very useful, even if it gives the impression of great achievements. We have to convince the rest of the scientific community that taxonomy is important, so to give proper inputs to decision makers.

*Question:* Why is the Sicily Channel not a biogeographic region on its own on the map of CIESM?

*Answer:* good question, it will be taken into consideration.

*Comment:* The southern shore is going through the most spectacular change throughout the Mediterranean and it is not appreciated enough because there are no trained people to witness it.

*Answer:* Even fish are not covered very well because there are many mistakes. If there are no specialists, it is almost impossible to have reliable records. The issue is extremely important and calls for proper effort in building new taxonomists.

*Comment:* Virtual libraries with pdf papers will help people to identify organisms.

*Answer:* taxonomy is not identification. If people think to be able to identify specimens just from a key or an atlas, there will be a great risk of misidentification, as it is happening even for fish. Floras and faunas have to be developed, but they are important tools for identification only if novel cases (e.g. of records new for the basin) are inspected by specialists.