

Jean-Pierre FERAL



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PhD (experimental morphogenesis) 1977, Thesis ès Sciences (ecophysiology) 1985. Research director at the CNRS.

Present position: Head of the unit of research UMR 6540 - *Diversity, evolution and marine functional ecology*.

Station Marine d'Endoume, Centre d'Océanologie de Marseille. After having a diploma of oceanography and a PhD (1977) on experimental morphogenesis (regeneration in the Cephalopods), J-P Féral oriented his research work towards problems taking into account the environment of marine organisms. He obtained the title of Docteur ès Sciences (1985) by presenting a thesis on the function of nutrition of a deposit-feeder, the sea cucumber *Leptosynapta galliennei*. In addition to understand physiological mechanisms making it possible to such organisms to use the organic matter linked to the sediments, he showed the impact of their activity on their environment (bioturbation, gardening). Lastly, thanks to the study of the digestive hydrolases, J-P Féral showed that several detritivorous species having different digestive capacities cohabited without no other factor of competition than space. After having developed research in the field of the physiological adaptation to the factors of the milieu, he was interested in the mechanisms of diversification of the main physiological functions and of the species. His current themes of research relate to the origin, the maintenance and the erosion of biological diversity (from gene to ecosystem and sea-scape) according to the environmental conditions and the dispersal capacities of the organisms, in continuous and insular marine ecosystems. The aim is to take into account not only the present conditions, but all the history of the species and of the basins (phylogeographic and phylogenetic inferences, associated with the history of the oceans), to test models of speciation and to propose scenarios of evolution of the biodiversity, on various scales of time, under the influence of various impacts, natural or anthropogenic.

J-P Féral especially worked within the framework of the French marine stations (Roscoff, Banyuls sur-Mer, Marseille-Endoume), giving the priority to the experimental approach, *in situ* (using SCUBA diving and even by means of manned submarine - *Cyana*) or *ex situ*, in aquaria, in contrasted environments, temperate, Mediterranean, subantarctic, antarctic and abyssal.

Recent responsibilities:

1996-2000: Head of the French network "marine diversity" (RDM),

1998-2003: Steering committee of MARS (European Marine Station network),

1998-2004: National committee of the Scientific research, section 30-biodiversity,

2000-2002: Steering committee of BIOMARE European Joint action: *Implementation and Networking off broad-scale length-term Marine Biodiversity*

research in Europe and workpackage leader *Indicators of marine and coastal biodiversity at a European scale*,
2002-2004: National committee of the Scientific research, interdisciplinary commission 46,
2002-2005: Advisory committee of MARBENA: *Creating a long-term marine infrastructure for biodiversity research in the European Economic area and the Newly Ascending States*,
2003-2008: Scientific commission of the IFB (French Institute for Biodiversity),
2004-2008: Workpackage leader of the network of excellence MARINE GENOMICS-EUROPE,
2004-2009: Steering committee of the network of excellence MARBEF: *Marine biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and chairman of project GBIRM: genetic biodiversity*, since 2004: Scientific committee of EuroCoML: *Census of Marine Life-Europe*. Chairman in 2006 and 2007 of the committee of evaluation of the ANR *Biodiversity*. Chairman in 2008 of 5 committees of evaluation of the AERES.

J-P Féral is the author and co-author of a 100 articles and chapters of books. He has coordinated the publication of 8 books.

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