

In Memoriam Hermes Mianzan

Hermes Mianzan passed away on July 9, 2014 after a prolonged illness. He was born in La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina, in 1957, and he trained as a zoologist at the National University of La Plata. His doctoral thesis dealt with systematics of several scyphozoan medusae from the subantarctic region and represented one of the first comprehensive studies of medusae from Argentina.

After completing his PhD, Hermes obtained a position as Researcher at the National Scientific and Technical Research Council of Argentina. He developed his research career mostly in Mar del Plata, Argentina, at the National Institute for Fishery Research and Development (INIDEP) where he led the Fisheries Ecology Project for the last 10 years.

Hermes was one of the leaders in thought and practice in the field of plankton research, as the study of planktonic dynamics increasingly focused on interactions between physical and biological processes, particularly involving his specialty, gelatinous zooplankton at marine frontal zones. He was the most productive zooplankton biologist from Argentina and played a key role in the development of marine biology and biological oceanography in the South American region. In recent years, he was involved with other colleagues in the creation of the Marine and Coastal Research Institute, Mar del Plata, and was a consultant of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Argentina.

Hermes participated in oceanographic research cruises in the Argentine Sea and other regions. He was also deeply committed to the challenging and time-consuming work of administering research. Even in the most financially challenging times, he seemed to 'magically' find ways of obtaining support for students or young researchers, enabling many of us to stay on the path of science.

Hermes authored more than 100 scientific contributions, including primary research articles, books, technical reports, outreach articles, and project reports. He also organized international meetings and taught a variety of courses. The greatest value of his



Hermes Mianzan (1957–2014)

career, however, lay not in his own curriculum, but in the curricula of many others to whom he gave support. Therefore, much as we will miss Hermes' scientific intellect and vision, it is the passing of his personality and humanity that leaves an unfillable gap in the scientific community.

Hermes possessed a 'larger than life' personality—his generosity, energy and humor elevated every project of which he was a part, enhancing our work with his personal charisma. Perhaps we can replace intellect and vision, but the community will miss the depth and breadth of his personality.

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