



RINA C. MONTI

1871-1937, ITALY

Italian limnologist, physiologist and zoologist. Her works were intended for practical applications, such as fish farming or conservation of the environment.

Expert in histology and comparative anatomy and a pioneer in the study of high mountain lakes and their biology.

Cofounder of the Italian Institute of Hydrobiology, founded the first Italian School of Limnology, and first woman to hold a Chair position in Italy.

She published more than 120 scientific articles and monographs.

HERSTORY

Rina repeatedly competed to have an university professorship, but was denied several times until becoming the the first woman to hold a permanent position in an Italian University.

IN MEMORIAM OF RINA

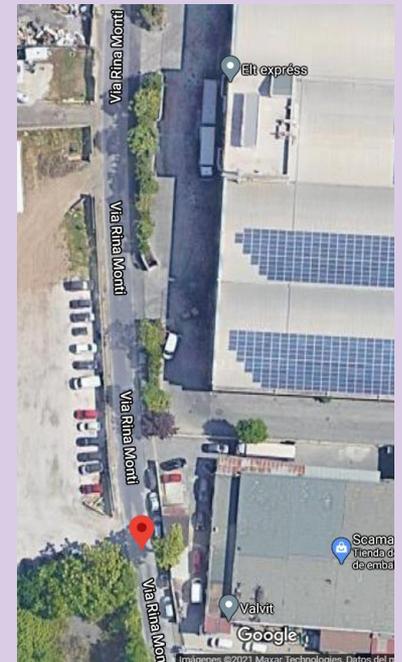
Because of her initial findings, the study of limnology grew in Italy due to the work of the students that she supervised. Now, Rina and one of her daughters (Emilia Stella), are widely recognized limnologists.

She has a lake and a street with her name, wow!!!

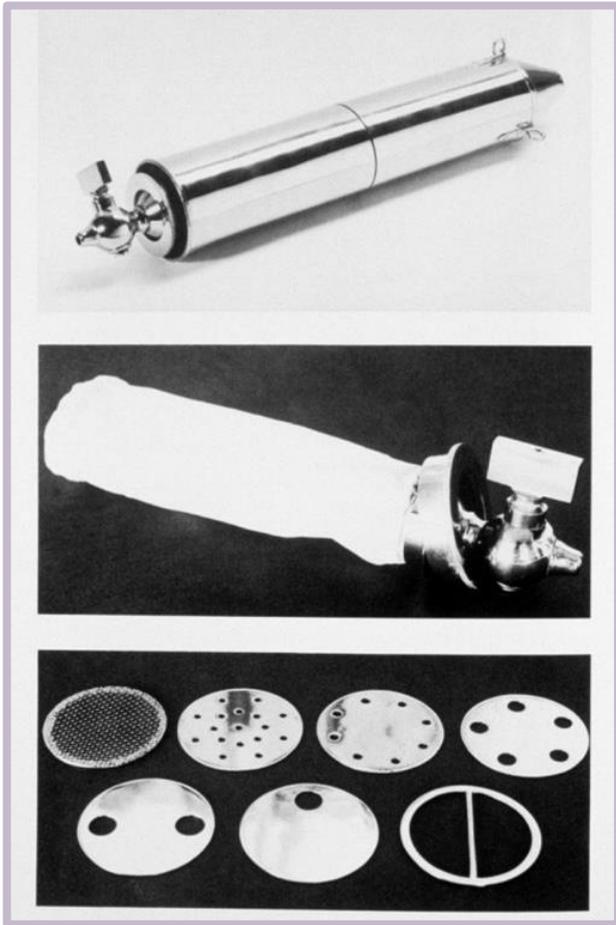


Lake Monti, a permanently frozen lake in the Terra Nova bay, discovered in Antarctica in 1988, during an Italian scientific expedition.

Via "Rina Monti Stella," a road in the northwestern area of Pavia, was named for her in In 2013.



HYDROBIOLOGY OF MOUNTAIN LAKES



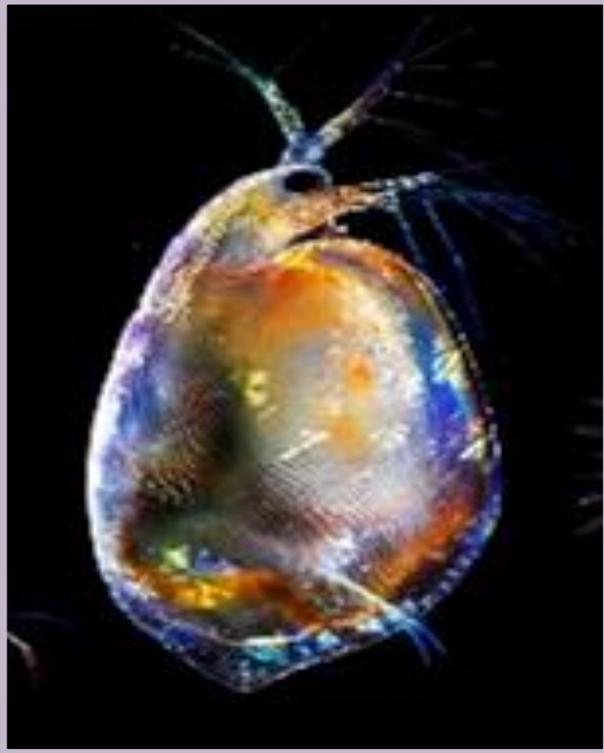
The “Monti net tube”, designed by her, to collect aquatic organisms in the lake

Hydrobiology: sub-discipline of ecology related to life processes in water and aquatic organisms including taxonomy, morphology and physiology.

Rina studied the hydrobiology of inland lakes in the Italian mountains of Val d'Aosta, Val d'Ossola and Trentino combining field research and laboratory analyses.

In there, she created the limnological station on Lake Maggiore, designed and built a boat (*Pavesia*) for her field campaigns and used nets of her own invention (the Monti net tube) to collect specimens.

PLANKTON DIVERSITY IN LAKES



Rina studied plankton species in the lakes of Trentino.

In Lake Orta, Rina documented the extinction of life resulting from pollution caused by industrial waste, emphasizing the need to respect the ecological balance.

Monti dedicated her last few years to the Lake Molveno (1934), aided by her daughter, Emilia Stella. Together they did a genetic study on cladocera (small crustaceans named water fleas) (1936).

RELEVANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Monti, R. C. (1982). Ricerche microscopiche sul sistema nervoso degli insetti. Rendiconti. Istituto lombardo di scienze e lettere, 2, 25, 533-540.

Monti, R. C. (1893). Ricerche microscopiche sul sistema nervoso degli insetti. Bollettino scientifico, 15, 105-122.

Monti, R. C. (1901). Lezioni di anatomia comparata del sistema nervoso, riassunte dallo studente A. Corti, Pavia.

Monti, R. C. (1914). La variabilità della pressione osmotica nelle diverse specie animali. Atti della Società Italiana di Scienze Naturali, 53, 391-448.

Monti, R. C. (1929). The comparative limnology of insubric lakes, L'universale, Rome.

Monti, R. C. (1933). La genetica e la classificazione dei coregoni italiani e la loro variabilità in relazione coll'ambiente. Archivio Zoologico Italiano, 18, 157-202.

LOOKING
FOR MORE?

You can find more information about her story and research at:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rina_Monti ;

<http://scienzaa2voci.unibo.it/biografie/60-monti-stella-cesarina-rina>

R. De Bernardi. (1990). Outline of a history of limnological research in Italy, Memorie dell'Istituto Italiano di Idrobiologia, 50, 1-7.