



**Workshop IODP-Italia “Lo stato delle proposte di perforazione nell’area mediterranea”**  
*Scientific Drilling in the Mediterranean Sea*  
Roma, 15-16 gennaio 2018

**Abstract**

***Le perforazioni scientifiche mediterranee nella storia recente***

**The sapropel theme: DSDP ODP and Beyond**

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**Abstract**

Sapropels are sediments rich in organic carbon occurring cyclically in the Mediterranean marine records and whose origin has been matter of great debate during the last decades. Since the very beginning of the history of studies on sapropels, authors inferred that those levels, interbedded as dark layers in more or less normal light “open marine” sediments, formed during short-lived but catastrophic alterations in Mediterranean oceanographic conditions, probably linked to broader climate changes. I will summarize the main results after the DSDP-ODP legs in the Mediterranean and outline possible new applications in the study of these mysterious sediments

