

FINAL RESUME ON THE RESEARCH UNIT:
Evolution, Ecology and Paleontology
(Evo-Eco-Paleo)

UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE
FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS AND
RESEARCH BODIES:

Université de Lille

Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique -
CNRS

EVALUATION CAMPAIGN 2018-2019
GROUP E



In the name of Hcéres¹:

Michel Cosnard, President

In the name of the experts committee²:

Martin Lascoux, Chairman of the committee

Under the decree No.2014-1365 dated 14 November 2014,

¹ The president of Hcéres "countersigns the evaluation reports set up by the experts committees and signed by their chairman." (Article 8, paragraph 5);

² The evaluation reports "are signed by the chairman of the experts committee". (Article 11, paragraph 2).

Tables in this document were filled with data provided by laboratories and supervising bodies in the unit's application and in the Excel files "Données du contrat en cours" and "Données du prochain contrat".

UNIT PRESENTATION

Unit name:	Evolution, Ecology and Paleontology
Unit acronym:	Evo-Eco-Paleo
Requested label:	UMR
Application type:	Renewal
Current number:	8198
Head of the unit (2018-2019):	Mr Xavier VEKEMANS
Project leader (2020-2024):	Mr Xavier VEKEMANS
Number of teams and/or themes:	2

EXPERTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair :	Mr Martin LASCOUX, Uppsala University, Sweden
Experts :	Ms Maria Helena CRUZ DE CARVALHO, Université Paris-Est Créteil, Val-de-Marne
	Mr Gilles CUNY, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (representative of CNU)
	Mr Ludovic GIELLY, Université Grenoble Alpes (supporting personnel)
	Mr Xavier LAMBIN, University of Aberdeen, UK
	Ms Nathalie NIQUIL, CNRS, Caen
	Ms Ana RIVERO-LYNCH, CNRS, Montpellier (representative of CoNRS)

HCÉRES REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Christopher CARCAILLET

REPRESENTATIVES OF SUPERVISING INSTITUTIONS AND BODIES

Mr Didier BOUCHON, CNRS

Ms Clarisse DHAENENS, Université de Lille

INTRODUCTION

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF THE UNIT

The Evo-Eco-Paleo Unit (EEP, UMR 8198) is a recent unit in its current form as it was renewed in January 2015 with the integration of the *Paleo-ecology and Sedimentary Environments* team of the *Geosystems* unit (previously UMR CNRS 8217) into the *Genetics and Evolution of Plant Populations* laboratory (UMR CNRS 8198). Four members of a third lab working on plant reproduction also joined the new unit EEP thus expanding its domain of expertise. The EEP is located on the Villeneuve d'Ascq campus of the University of Lille in two different buildings, one housing the Evolution and Ecology team and the other the Paleontology team.

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Unit's head: Mr Xavier Vekemans;

Deputy heads: Mr Joël Cuguen and Mr Thomas Servais.

HCÉRES NOMENCLATURE

SVE1 Agronomie, biologie végétale, écologie, environnement, évolution

SCIENTIFIC DOMAIN

The unit is divided into two teams, an Evolution & Ecology Team and a Paleontology Team. The Evolution & Ecology Team comprises four groups: evolutionary genomics of plant mating systems, evolutionary ecology and reproduction, environmental changes and adaptation, species interactions, and comparative immunology. The Paleontology Team is divided into two main scientific domains: macroevolution and paleoecology, on the one hand, and macroecology, on the other.

UNIT WORKFORCE

	Unit workforce	
	Unit Evolution, Ecology and Paleontology	
Active staff	Number 30/06/2018	Number 01/01/2020
Full professors and similar positions	9	9
Assistant professors and similar positions	13	13
Full time research directors (Directeurs de recherche) and similar positions	3	3
Full time research associates (Chargés de recherche) and similar positions	5	4
Other scientists ("Conservateurs, cadres scientifiques des EPIC, fondations, industries, etc.")	0	0
High school teachers	1	0
Supporting personnel (ITAs, BIATSSs and others, notably of EPICs)	20	21

Permanent staff	51	50
Non-permanent professors and associate professors, including emeritus	3	
Non-permanent full-time scientists, including emeritus, post-docs	8	
<i>PhD Students</i>	13	
Non-permanent supporting personnel	7	
Non-permanent staff	31	
Total	82	50

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIT

In the past three years, the Evo-Eco-Paleo Unit (EEP, UMR 8198) has faced a series of new challenges: foremost of which has been integrating two very different teams within a common administrative structure, fostering cooperation between them, and opening new research avenues that will capitalize on the combined knowledge of both teams, all while maintaining its scientific output at the current high level. Overall, the integration of both teams into the unit has been successful. The scientific output is high and of excellent quality. The funding has been steady but there is still some room for improvement during the next period when some key grants will need to be replaced. The interactions with the non-academic world are still limited and should be encouraged. This is not too surprising given the research program of the unit, but the committee noted however, that there have recently been very encouraging steps in the right direction. The high quality of the scientific output is the result of a very successful training through research and a high international recognition: the number of trained students per year is large and the students benefit from a very active scientific life in a well-functioning administrative unit. Regarding the latter, holding a general assembly in a more frequent basis would go a long way towards the smooth integration of the two units, and towards facilitating the movement of persons between the two different sites. Also, communication at all levels needs to be improved. Some of the technical platforms could be merged and the links of others with the unit reinforced. This can be done by benefiting from the experience of the technical platforms that work very well and are already particularly well integrated into the unit. The women/men ratios among team leaders, unit head and deputy heads remain rather low and could also be increased but the committee appreciates the shift in this direction in the next term. Finally, the scientific strategy of the unit is ambitious and promising, although the scattering of research projects over research groups may be a bit too high relative to the amount of funding secured. In addition, the research strategy should continue to aim towards bridging the differences between the two teams. In summary, we feel that the Evo-Eco-Paleo Unit has been successful in its first steps towards an integrative and productive scientific unit.

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