

**COLLÈGE ROGER CONTREPAS**

**MARSILLARGUES**





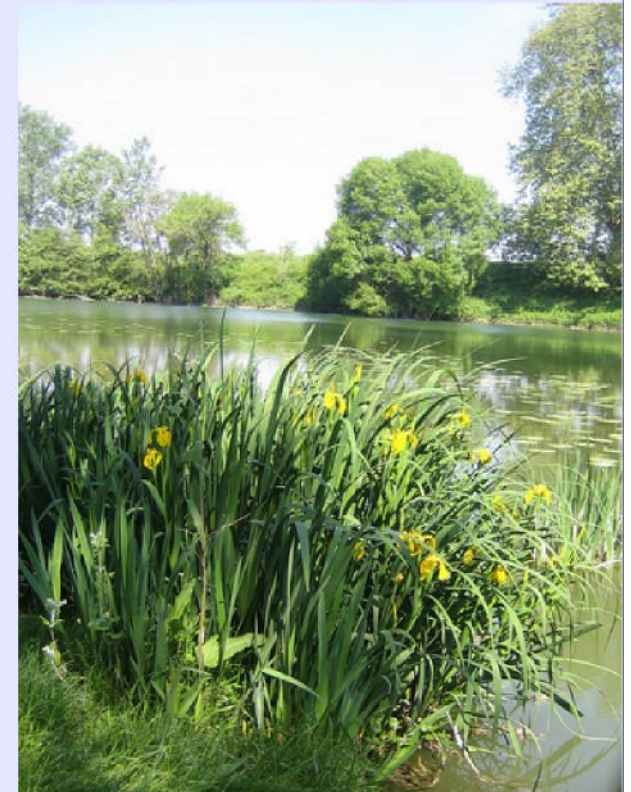
# THE VIDOURLE AND ITS RIVERBANK FOREST

The **Vidourle** is a river on the Mediterranean Coast.

The riverbank forest (in French : ripisylve from Latin, *ripa* : river and *sylva* : forest) is a forest located along the river banks.

The riverbank is covered with deciduous trees. It's a wild habitat covered with a large variety of species.

**A few trees on the river bank**



**Maple-tree**



**White poplar**



**Alder**



**Ash-tree**



# Photos of our expedition

Each one of us had a task...

Catching animals thanks to the tools we created :  
a raised table cloth,  
a mouth vacuum.



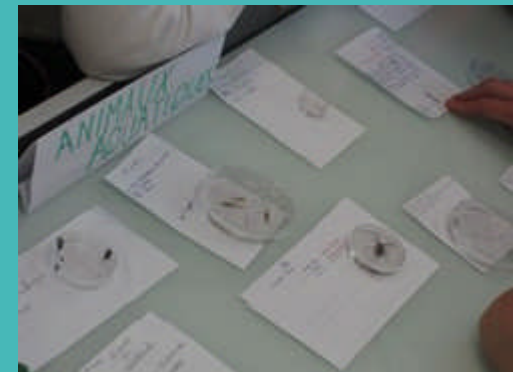
Sorting out animals.  
Organizing their transport.

## Back from our expedition:



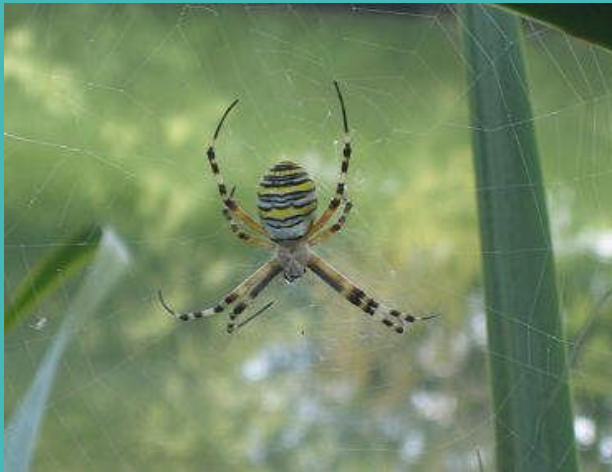
Observing, identifying, classifying,  
looking for information.

Organizing an  
exhibition.



# A surprising biodiversity !

**Argiope fasciée**  
*Arachnida*



The lady is in the middle of the web. The man is tiny and will only meet her to mate : the lady is a cannibal, she will eat the man !

**Common fennel**  
*Foeniculum vulgare*  
Ombelliferes



Fennel smells nice and it can be eaten !!  
I am the Pisa snail and I climb up its stalk so that I can get some fresh air !!

**Donkey Cucumber**  
*Ecballium Elaterium*  
Cucurbitaces



When it's ripe, its fruit explodes and throws out the seeds in it.  
Very clever !!!  
Be careful ! The sap that comes out is very itchy !!



# Dragonflies in all shapes

From **spring** to **autumn**, adult dragonflies of different species fly over the water and its banks.

In Winter, they are under water in the shape of larva.

**They change shape and living habitat to spend the winter season. PRACTICAL !**

## Scarlet dragonfly

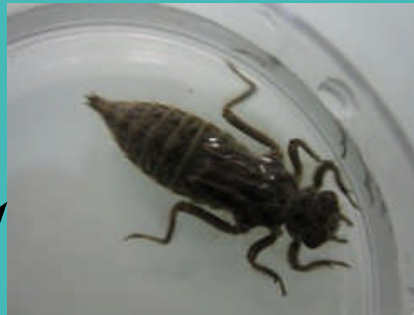
*Crocothemis erythraea*



Male adult seen on the Vidourle banks in **september**

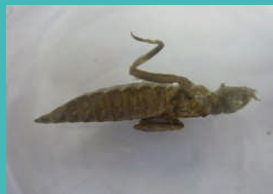
## Anax Emperor

*Anax imperator*



Larva caught in **April** in the water

Larva sheating found on a rush stalk



## Agrion larva

Caught in **April** near roots of aquatic plants





# Biodiversity : the basis of our medecine

**Chelidoine**

*Chelidonium Majus*

**Papaveraces**

Habitat : shaded areas

- Herbal plant easy to identify because of its small yellow flowers with four petals. It's called also « **goat herb** » because of its awful smell.
- An orange coloured sap seeps out as soon as it is cut.
- It is also called « wart herb » because if you rub your wart with its sap several consecutive mornings, the wart will disappear !!!
- The sap also contains toxic substances called « alcaloïdes ».
- **NEVER EAT THE GREEN PLANT !!!!!**
- It is used to make medecine that cures liver illnesses and the gall-bladder.

# Biodiversity: the basis of our medecine

**Stinging Nettle**   *Urtica dioica*   Urticaces

It's one of the rare plants that you recognize with your eyes closed !!!

**Easy!!**

If you touch the hairs on its leaves, the ends break and get stuck in your skin while a liquid seeps out.



**Ouch! It burns, it stings, it is itchy, it swells.**

Our advice : Rub the nettle prick with plantain herb leaves.  
You'll be surprised with the results...

The stinging nettle can be consumed in a soup or in a salad...

In medecine, it is recommended for rheumatisms, asthma, bleedings...

It is an ingredient in anti-dandruff shampoos and anti-loss of hair shampoos.



*Plantago lanceolata*

# PLANTS THAT CAN KILL US

Be careful of what you don't know...

## Italian Arum

*Arum italicum*

Araces



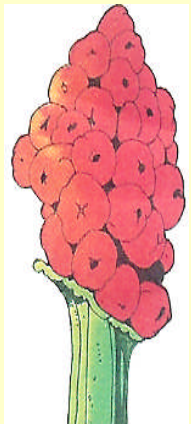
Habitat : Shaded and humid areas on the river banks.

**Toxic parts : fruit, leaves and stalks.**

This herbal plant has got large decorative leaves in the shape of a spear-head.

A whitish spathe/husk protects the reproductive organs.

The red fruit is found in grapes and at 20 cm off the ground. It causes many intoxications. **Be careful with small children!**

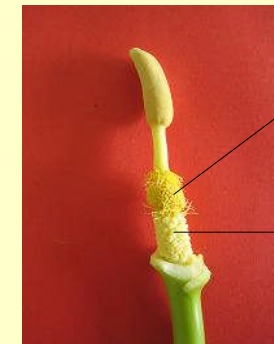


Fruit



spathe

swollen  
base



male  
flowers

female  
flowers

### An eccentric reproduction.

Because of its smell, the plant attracts insects that slide in the swollen base of the spathe/husk where male and female flowers are hidden. The insect is caught and it moves around the reproductive organs and thus fertilization occurs.



# BIODIVERSITY IN JEOPARDY / PERIL

Phytolaque

American grapes

Invasive plant to fight  
Toxic part : the fruit

A large herbal plant from North America. It was introduced in France back in 1600 by explorers.

In autumn, its stalks become red and its fruit become purple : *it is very decorative.*

Birds spread the seeds in their droppings and thus the invasion of a habitat is rapid.

*The Phytolaque destroys many organisms living off the ground and consequently it destroys biodiversity.*

A number of forests are contaminated and many clearing campaigns are carried out.



# A cancelled outing...

On wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of May, we were supposed to observe some *aloses feintes* at the crossing at St Laurent d'Aigouze. Unfortunately the water level was too high and we had to cancel our excursion. Too bad, next time.....

## Portrait of a *Alose feinte* :



I am a migratory fish. I live in the sea close to the coast. I mate in rivers. I swim upstream from March to June to reach the reproduction shelters (frayers). When there are floods I hide in the river banks.



## Two human actions have tampered with my reproduction :

- The building of ridges and dams that prevent me from swimming upstream.
- The quarrying of sand and pebbles which destroy my reproduction shelters.

## Two human actions improve my reproduction :

- the creation of « fish tunnels »,
- the creation of substitute reproduction shelters.

**A Warning !! We should be careful !!!**

Crossing and « fish tunnel »  
at Marsillargues



A photo of  
« the little  
explorers »



When we studied biodiversity, we understood its importance for mankind.

It is the basis of our food supply.

It is the basis of our medicine.

**BY PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY, WE ARE PROTECTING THE  
FUTURE OF MANKIND!!!**