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# The Station Biologique de Roscoff and the Scottish Marine Station for Scientific Research in Oban: "une histoire croisée" across France and Scotland

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## Résumé

The Station Biologique de Roscoff (SBR) in Brittany, the predecessor of the Wimereux station, celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2022. This event was an opportunity to celebrate its history and look back on the ways in which the Roscoff station has gradually expanded since it was founded in 1872, both in terms of size and its various roles, including hosting, training, research, and collection and shipment of biological specimens. In contrast, the Oban station in Scotland (SAMS) has a more contingent and unstable history, which can be traced back to its first establishment in 1884 in Granton near Edinburgh on the east coast of Scotland, and to Millport on the island of Great Cumbrae, near Glasgow on the west coast of Scotland from 1897 onwards.

Despite their distinct institutional trajectories, the two stations share many characteristics nowadays comprising a scientific specialisation in phycology and the curation of a culture collection of marine organisms. In this paper, which borrows from the cross-history approach (*histoire croisée*), we retrace the trajectory of these two stations from their origins, identifying points of convergence and points of divergence which results in the characterisation and articulation of several stages, i.e. the stage of emergence before the World Wars which showcases the influence of the different national and political context in which the stations are set-up, and late 20th century in which molecularisation of marine biology is changing both stations in similar ways and reinforces international networks of exchanges. Based on archival materials, oral histories and bibliometric mapping, we show that despite a limited number of direct connections between the two stations up to the end of the 20th century, they did not develop in isolation from each other as they were embedded in larger international networks that partially overlap. Moreover, we further explore the shared history by looking at research on algae carried out at the two stations, which generated more contemporary institutional links through the establishment of the European Marine Biological Resource Centre (EMBRC) infrastructure, initiated by the Roscoff station.

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