

# IAPPS NEWSLETTER

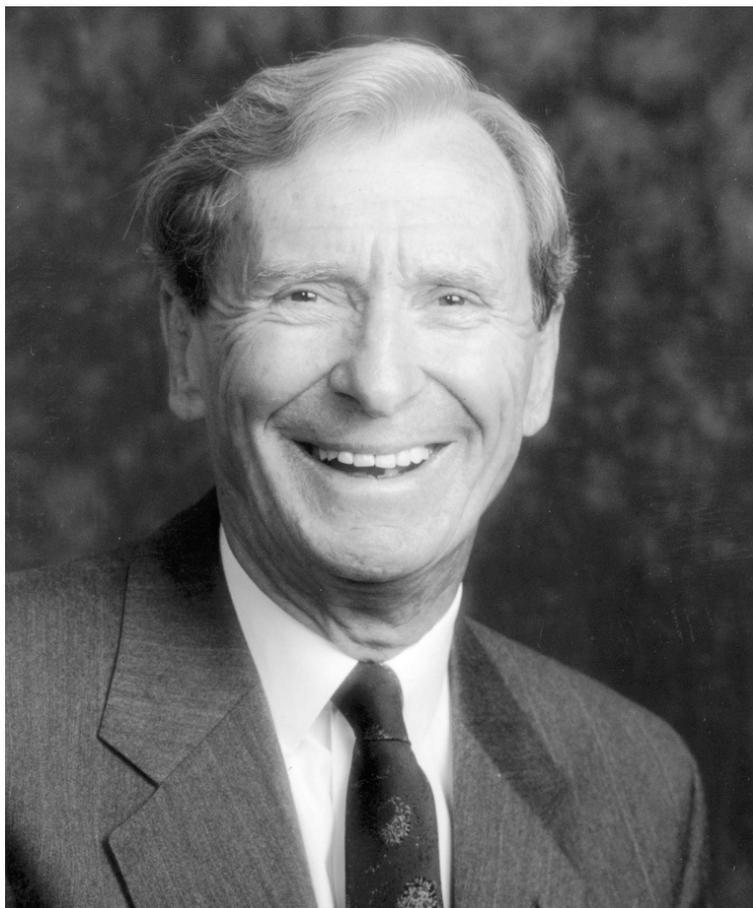
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## OBITUARY EMERITUS PROFESSOR MICHAEL JAMES WAY

Michael Way was internationally recognized for his work on insect pest management. Michael's career started in 1941, when a temporary grant enabled him to work as a research assistant for Sir Vincent Wigglesworth, and he was undoubtedly influenced by Wigglesworth's approach to entomological research. He then joined Rothamsted Experimental Station in September 1943, where he studied DDT and other new insecticides, seeking ways to make them more selective. On



secondment to Zanzibar to work on cloves in 1950, he was, however, soon studying damage caused by coreid bugs, then referred to as *Theraptus* spp., which were reducing coconut yields and the ant *Oecophylla longinoda*, work that has provided the basis of practical biological control of key pests of coconuts. This research was followed by a taxonomic study of the coreid bugs by Eric Brown who named the coconut pest *Pseudotheraptus wayi* in recognition of his work.

Returning to Rothamsted in 1957, Michael Way recognized the need to forecast when insecticides should be applied to avoid expensive and environmentally unacceptable calendar based treatments. This work and its implications influenced much of the subsequent research program at Rothamsted and continued on his appointment as a

Reader at Imperial College in 1961. He obtained his DSc from the University of London before being appointed to a personal chair as Professor of Applied Zoology at Imperial College in 1969. Studies with Mike Cammell related the numbers of the black bean aphid *Aphis fabae* overwintering on their spindle tree host to subsequent economic crop loss in field beans. This led

to the first implementation of a forecasting program for *A. fabae* in the United Kingdom in 1977. In the early 1960s, Michael was responsible (with Professor Manfred Mackauer of Simon Fraser University at Vancouver) in running a massive international effort on the biological control of the peach-potato aphid *Myzus persicae*, one of about five programs on arthropod biological control supported financially by the International Biological Programme of that era. He made two exceptional conceptual contributions to the world of applied entomology. The first was elegant experimental work demonstrating (with aphids) that intra-specific competition starts its impact on population regulation remarkably early in the exponential stage of population growth. Secondly he pointed out, during the debate in the 1970s on ecosystem diversity and stability, that for any pest problem, the introduction of just one element of new diversity would usually be all that was needed to improve control.

At Imperial College's world famous field station, Silwood Park (Ascot), Michael Way transformed the well established Diploma of Applied Entomology course into an internationally recognized Masters course under the aegis of the University of London in 1966. The course, still running, is now the only such course in the UK. Many of the MSc students and others, undertaking PhD projects, examined different aspects of aphid biology under his guidance. In 1979 he was appointed Director of Silwood Park and was closely involved in the re-development of the rural campus with new buildings, including a Science Park aimed at encouraging entrepreneurial companies to integrate with scientists at Imperial College. He brought together the wide ranging expertise on insects, nematodes, plant pathogens and weeds to form the Silwood Centre of Pest Management and persuaded the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control (CIBC) to re-locate their UK staff and headquarters to Silwood, thus forging closer links with applied ecological research programs in the tropics. Silwood Park was undoubtedly the world's leading training ground for entomologists from the developing world, particularly sub-Saharan Africa. When the IIBC and Silwood libraries were combined, it was named the 'Michael Way Library' in 1998.

His overseas interests continued with a sabbatical at Berkeley, University of California and participating on the FAO Panel of experts on Pest Management and various consultancy visits to Africa on cotton and coconut research. As an advisor to FAO, he was instrumental in helping to develop the draft Code of Conduct for the Import and Release of Exotic Biological Control Agents, which became International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures No. 3 (ISPM3). Professor Way was elected a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society in 1953 and served on Council for three years from 1959 before being Vice-President 1961-62. He was elected an Honorary Fellow in 2007. He was Vice president of the West Palaearctic Regional section of the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC-WPRS) from 1974 – 1981, President of IOBC from 1981– 1985, President of the Association of Applied Biologists in 1984 and Consultant Director for CIBC 1981-85. He was elected to the historic and exclusive Entomological Club in 1983. He was passionate that scientific papers should be written succinctly in plain English and helped many students with advice, always given in his own inimitable kindly way. He was editor of the *Journal of Applied Ecology* from 1978-1981, and on the Editorial Board of *Ecological Research*. On retirement in 1985 he was appointed Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow and continued to supervise PhD students and do research, particularly on ants. He was also at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) as a visiting scientist for three months a year over a

five year period with K L Heong. This enabled him to review the role of biodiversity, which now forms the foundation of the IRRI ecological engineering approach to pest management. Being much happier in the field and using an empirical approach to solving problems, he was able to do pioneering research to document the role of ants in the rice ecosystem. His contributions to rice pest management will always remain classics. With his last paper from IRRI work published in 2009, his many scientific papers (estimated at over 150) covered six decades. Michael's scientific hallmarks were a keen intellect coupled with charismatic enthusiasm. It was almost impossible to mention an entomological point without this stimulating an idea in him, and one left with an improved understanding of particularly the wider issues. Michael was a tremendous role model and will be remembered fondly by the many students (and staff) at Silwood Park and elsewhere for his friendly approach and guidance.

He is survived by his wife, Isobel, whom he met while at Rothamsted, and by his children Katherine and Robert.

Michael Way was born 5<sup>th</sup> May 1922 and died 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011

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## **UPDATE: XVII INTERNATIONAL PLANT PROTECTION CONGRESS**

This is the tentative program for the special symposium 'Feed the Future' to be held during IPPC XVII:

Topic 1: *Feed the Future Initiative - Role of IPM*, Rob Bertram, USAID (10+ 5 Minutes)

Topic 2: *Feed the Future Initiative - Role of USDA*, Anita Regmi, NIFA/USDA, (10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 3: *Role of IPM in Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation activities*, Prem Warrior, Senior Program Officer at Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 4: *Need for plant protection research and technology transfer in tropical crops from the viewpoint of an European donor agency*, Dr. Marlene Diekmann, Research Advisor, German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Bonn, Germany (10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 5: *Need for plant protection research and technology transfer in tropical crops from the viewpoint of a CG Center DG*, Bob Ziegler, DG, IRRI, Philippines (10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 6: *Need for IPM strategies and technology transfer activities in tropical vegetable crops from the viewpoint of the IPM CRSP*, S.K. De Datta, Associate Vice President for International Affairs and Director, Office of International Research, Education and Development, Virginia Tech, U.S.A. (10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 7: *Impact of IPM programs in tropical agriculture*, George Norton, Virginia Tech, U.S.A.

(10 + 5 Minutes)

Topic 8: *Panel discussion: What has been done and what needs to be done to solve current and future pest constraints to food production.* (7 + 3 Minutes each)

Richard Sikora, Chair, CG SP-IPM Steering Committee, University of Bonn

Gebisa Ejeta, Purdue University, World Food Prize winner

Geoff Norton, President, IAPPS, University of Queensland, Australia

CEO of CropLife

Sanath Reddy, Senior Economic Growth Advisor, USAID Mission, Indonesia

Daniel Coyne, IITA, Tanzania

Topic 9: *Recommendations and action plan*, plenary (15 Minutes)

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**IAPPS Mission: to provide a global forum for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, integrating, and promoting plant protection concepts, technologies, and policies that are economically, environmentally, and socially acceptable.**

**It seeks to provide a global umbrella for the plant protection sciences to facilitate and promote the application of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach to the world's crop and forest ecosystems.**

**Membership Information: IAPPS has four classes of membership (individual, affiliate, associate, and corporate) which are described in the IAPPS Web Site [www.plantprotection.org](http://www.plantprotection.org).**

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