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A TRIBUTE TO SERGE QUILICI



CIRAD has the profound regret to announce the untimely demise of our friend and colleague Serge Quilici, who passed away on Feb 28, 2015 after a long and unequal struggle against his cancer. Serge started his career in 1982 at l'IRAT (former Institut de Recherches en Agronomie Tropicale, now integrated into CIRAD), to continue with IRFA (Institut de Recherches sur les Fruits et Agrumes), followed by a PhD in entomology at INRA (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) in Antibes, all in France, and a position as assistant professor at the Institut Agronomique et Vétérinaire Hassan II, in Rabat, Morocco.

He was a world renowned expert in fruit flies, major biotic constraints of fruit and vegetable crops in tropical and Mediterranean zones. Serge contributed significantly to improve the scientific knowledge on

the biology and ecology of this important taxonomic group. Widely recognized for his scientific work, as well as for his human qualities, Serge was a longstanding member of the organizing committee of the International Congress of Fruit Flies, and of the 'Conférence Internationale Francophone d'Entomologie' (CIFE), where he always enjoyed meeting with colleague entomologists from Africa, particularly those whom he supervised as PhD or MSc advisor.

He was also an international expert working for Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt (MAAF), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United States Department for Agriculture (USDA). Under these auspices, he has carried out several missions within the most important fruit producing countries in the Mediterranean zone.

Serge has always been very concerned by the practical application of his results, so he engaged early in his career with promoting integrated pest management, in particularly within the International Organization of Biological Control (IOBC). His profound entomological knowledge has allowed him to develop several bio-technical methods for constantly improving trapping systems, and biological control approaches by successfully establishing hymenopteran parasitoids.

He was also very keen in transferring his knowledge, e.g. by teaching assignments, conference presentations, and technical guidelines and manuals.

Serge was also a passionate naturalist, he was personally engaged in several committees under the Ministry of Environment, and he was also active in nature conservation.

He was keen on passing on to all his collaborators, students and friends, his passion for research in quest for a sustainable agriculture, respectful of that biodiversity he loved so much. And he did so with a humility and consideration.

Serge was a remarkable scientist and we will always remember him for his vast generosity, his inexhaustible availability and his great sense of humor.

An immense loss to our community... un Grand Monsieur... we will miss him.

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ON THE ROAD TO ELEVEN BIOCONTROL AGENTS

The European Union has for the coming years committed itself to Integrated Pest Management as strategy to control pests and diseases with the least possible use of synthetic products. This has resulted in BIOCOMES, a program in which private parties are, together with several research organizations, searching for eleven concrete biological products. 'After one year we are still sailing a successful course with all eleven products and two new production technologies!', says the coordinator of BIOCOMES, Dr. Jürgen Köhl of Wageningen UR.

Market thinking

At first sight it might look a bit odd, agrees Köhl: a consortium in which academic scientists are participating in a search for a commercial product as starting point. 'But in fact, this story starts one step earlier', says Köhl, 'and this is a question raised by the EU. The EU has chosen for an integrated method of pest and disease control with synthetic products as no more than a last resort. And what would be more logical than the further development of a number of concrete biological products, for which the first modest steps have already been taken?'

Cooperation and cultural differences

The strength of BIOCOMES lies in bringing together parties, which, per se, until now did not use to work together, according to Köhl. Apart from various parties from the industry, the BIOCOMES consortium also includes research organizations and experimental stations, and these are all originating from different European cultures. This of course results in the necessary challenges in the field of communication and coordination. In the first year already, there has been a lot of positive developments in this respect. We are in fact experiencing the close cooperation



between companies and research organizations to be very valuable. And in this way we are bringing together all specific expertise required for the development of biocontrol agents. We are therefore expecting that this will result in networks that will continue to exist after conclusion of a project such as BIOCOTES. And

this will stimulate further successful development of biological control products.

Research results

At this moment we are publishing results after one year of BIOCOTES research, such as those from teams working on the diseases powdery mildew and soil-borne *Verticillium* wilt, and the pests gypsy moth and aphids.

Updates about the other BIOCOTES pests and diseases will be published regularly on our website <http://www.biocotes.eu/>.

Wet!

But the first year of BIOCOTES did not only bring sunshine, says Köhl. ‘The field experiments for the control of brown rot in peaches in Southern Europe have been facing extremely wet weather. This resulted in the fungus *Monilinia fructicola* hitting unusually hard and in fact caused failure of the field experiments in the first year. The project, however, is running until the end of 2017 which means that almost three years are remaining to take this and the other products to a successful result.’

For more information:

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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.

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