

OBITUARY

DAVID ROSEN (1936-1997)

David Rosen, The Vigevani Professor of Agriculture and Professor of Entomology at the Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and world leader in Chalcidoid taxonomy and biological control of insect pests, died on 8 January 1997 after a brave struggle with cancer. David was born in Tel Aviv, Israel in 1936. He pursued his scientific studies at the Hebrew University where he obtained his M.Sc. degree *summa cum laude* in 1959 and his Ph.D. in agricultural entomology in 1965. David remained a staff member of the Faculty of Agriculture throughout the rest of his life, rising quickly from the rank of Lecturer in 1967 to Full Professor in 1978. In 1990 he became the first appointee of the Vigevani Chair in Agriculture. He chaired the Department of Entomology first as acting chairman (1974) and then as elected chairman, from 1977 to 1980 and from 1992 on, resigning from his second term after discovering his illness in 1995. In addition to his duties as chairman, David was very involved in University life. He was active on numerous committees as well as being Director of the Research Center for Integrated Pest Management from 1988 on. He was also deeply involved in teaching, both at the administrative level, where he contributed measurably to the shaping of future teaching curricula in plant protection; and at the personal level where he was known as an outstanding teacher and lecturer at home and abroad. His death came only a few days before he would have been awarded the M. Millikan Prize for Distinction in Teaching in recognition of his excellence.

Throughout his Career, David devoted a large part of his time to improving Israeli agriculture. He contributed measurably to the introduction and improvement of methods of biological and integrated pest control. His awareness to environmental problems culminated in heading a committee appointed by the chief scientist for the Ministry of Agriculture, to examine the possibilities of reducing the use of poisonous pesticides in agriculture. The committee's report that was published in 1990 after almost 2 years of deliberations, reflected his leadership, excellent ideas and superb penmanship, and served as an important landmark in plant protection in Israel.

On the international level, David was well known as one of the proponents and leaders in biological pest control. He was an active member of the IOBC and a member of the IOBC/WPRS Council, leaving his mark on many of its decisions. He also served as a member of the FAO/UNEP International Panel of Experts on Integrated Pest Control. His active participation in the International Plant Protection Congresses led the organizing committee to elect him chairman for the next (14th) meeting in 1999, to be held in Israel. David took also an important part in every International Congress of Entomology, in which, for the last 20 years, he organized symposia and participated as an invited speaker in numerous forums. During the 20th Congress, held last summer in Firenze, Italy, he was elected to replace Prof. R. Galun as a member of the organizing committee for the 21st Congress.

He traveled extensively in the Americas, Europe, the CIS, the Far East and Australia. David Rosen served as a visiting Professor of Entomology in Berkeley and Riverside, the

Universities of Ankara and Adana in Turkey, the University of Maryland in College Park, Texas A&M University in College Station, and the University of Florida in Gainesville.

He has published widely in Hebrew and English. His scientific contributions include 164 refereed articles, two books that he co-authored with Paul DeBach, and five books that he edited. Two additional books edited by him are about to appear. Many of these publications can be considered as important landmarks in the science and practice of biological control. His contributions in Hebrew have also been of great importance in facilitating the understanding and utilization of biological control and pest management in Israel.

David was a proud Israeli, believing in the right of all peoples to live freely in their homeland. He will also be remembered as speaking up, on many occasions, in favor of separating science from politics. He was a family man, a good husband to his wife, and father to his three children. During the last few years, he could often be seen in the company of his wife, Mazal, in many professional meetings. The many students and scientists whom he supervised for both MSc. and PhD. degrees, as well as his colleagues in Israel and abroad, will always remember David as an exemplary family man, a true friend and a brilliant colleague who was ready to contribute and help with his wisdom, humor and scientific insight. We shall sorely miss him.

Dan Gerling,
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