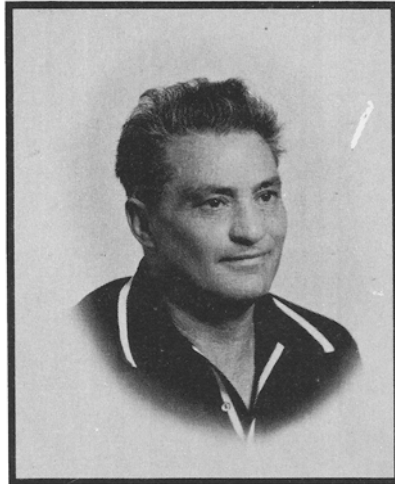


## OBITUARY

### **ITZHAK TEICH** (1924 – 1985)



#### *IN MEMORIAM*

Itzhak Teich, one of Israel's outstanding entomologists, died on March 3, 1985. He was born on November 26, 1924, in Graz, Austria, where he attended elementary school and was about to graduate from secondary school, when he had to leave his homeland, like many other Austrian Jews, because of the Second World War. Teich spent about 2 years on his way to Palestine where he arrived in 1941. Three years later he returned to Europe, this time as a soldier in the British Army.

When World War II was over he returned home to Palestine, and served in the security forces of the newly established State of Israel until 1950, as a combat medic.

Upon termination of his army service, I.T. commenced to work in the Ministry of Agriculture, Plant Protection Department, as an entomological technical assistant, and at the same time started his studies in zoology at Tel-Aviv University, where he obtained his degree.

At the end of 1953 I.T. was appointed Chief Instructor of Pest Control, and in March 1957 Chief Entomologist of the Plant Protection Department. From 1963 until 1967 he worked at The Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research as an entomological researcher. At the end of 1967 he returned to the Plant Protection Department and was appointed Head of the Plant Pests and Diseases Division, a task he fulfilled capably until his retirement from government service on April 30, 1982. But I.T. was not a person able to rest without activity: after a short period he started working on the Cotton Board as an entomologist and also as a research co-ordinator of cotton plant protection. Naturally, his main emphasis was on pest problems. In this function I.T. worked until his last day.

Itzhak Teich left his mark on every subject. As Head of the Plant Pests and Diseases Division, he was involved in many plant protection aspects of various crops, such as diseases, weeds, etc., but his main contribution was in the field of entomology, publishing more than one hundred

publications alone, or with his colleagues. From his publications we would like to single out his work on the biology, damage and control of the European mole cricket; Egyptian cotton leafworm control in peanuts; the improvement and introduction of the use of baits for controlling larvae stages of some moths – instead of chemical spraying; and, the most important of his works, the practical development of pheromone use as an integral part of pest management in various crops, especially cotton.

For his work on the mole cricket I.T. received an award from Tel-Aviv University, following a written appreciation by Prof. H. Bytinski-Salz. His work on the Egyptian cotton leafworm in peanuts, which significantly reduced the number of chemical treatments required, won him the First Award of the Civil Service Commission in 1971. For his research on pheromones in cotton, especially his contribution to the development and introduction of the use of pheromone traps in all cotton fields as a method for determining the “treatment threshold” for the control of the pink bollworm, I.T., together with his colleagues, received the Kaplan Labor Prize.

Teich continued to develop other pheromone methods as a means of reducing both damage and the number of chemical treatments. His work on mass-trapping of the Egyptian cotton leafworm, in both Upper Galilee (in a vast area which included cotton, alfalfa and apple trees) and the southern part of the country (where cotton, potatoes and carrots are grown), and his work on mass-trapping of the pink bollworm, were good examples of his conceptions. This year I.T. had intended to check the pheromone “disruption” concept in an aerial treatment over a large cotton area.

If we venture to sum up Teich’s work, we may state that most of it was characterized by his indefatigable drive toward achieving integrated control.

Teich was also an advisor to the supervisors of the Cotton Board. Moreover, he contributed from his experience to a generation of professionals and field workers, by giving lectures and demonstrations in regional institutes, and especially in the Ruppin College, one of the main high schools for agricultural education in Israel.

Parallel to these activities I.T. established close connections with professionals abroad, in the field of pheromones and other approaches to pest management. I.T. also contributed much to developing countries by sharing with them his experience and knowledge.

I.T. indefatigably pursued all these activities regardless of his severe health problems, which for most people would have been ample reason to discontinue all activity. He was a very kind person and an excellent team worker, but was very determined in fulfilling his tasks. His death brought a great loss to his family, friends, and all the Agricultural Family in Israel.

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