Byron with a good friend!
Near his house in the forest of Thessaloniki
November 2015
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Byron Katsoyannnos is one of the pioneer tephritid fruit fly workers. Here is an intimate interview shared by Byron including some enthralling anecdotes from an exceptional career and life in entomology.

“Fruit Fly News” accompanied me from the very beginning of my entomological life, edited for first time by my mentor Dr. Ernst F. Boller in 1972, at about which time I began my scientific career. Therefore, I am glad to be invited by the editors of the “Fruit Fly News” to give this interview.

Before answering the first question (below), and introducing myself, I wish to thank the editors very much for the invitation to give this written interview. In fact, this is a good opportunity for me to make a brief flash-back to my previous scientific life, and to provide some personal anecdotal stories, something that I have never done before.

How (Why) did you choose to be an entomologist?

While answering this first question, please allow me to give a brief summary and account of my scientific life, answering in part at the same time some of the questions following.

I was born 28 February 1942, in the middle of 2nd world war, on the island of Chios in the eastern Aegean Sea. My father was a respected engineer agronomist with strong humanitarian feelings and love for nature and literature. While working on this island, he rented a small farm with citrus and vegetables. I believe that my affinity for nature and insects originated from the experiences I had from my childhood period when, because of my father’s activities, I was in close contact with nature and the related agricultural activities. That is why I chose to study Agronomy at the Agricultural University of Athens during 1963-1967. During that period, the agricultural students, during the summer holidays, had the opportunity to work as local supervisors for the area-wide olive fruit fly control programme with bait sprays, conducted under the general supervision of the Greek Ministry of Agriculture. During all the five summers of my holidays as a student, I was employed as a supervisor on Chios, Lesbos and other places. I had the additional chance at the same time to serve as a collaborator for the field experiments executed in these areas by entomologists of the Benaki Phytopathological Institute (Kifissia, Athens), notably by Drs P. Mourikis and L. Argyriou.

Byron at a REBELL trap somewhere in Switzerland (1976)
learned a lot from them and I spent many days during the winter visiting the Benaki Institute, admiring the entomological books, the insect collections, and discussing with them and the other entomologists there. I believe that both the above periods (childhood, university studies), were critical for my decision to follow the science of entomology.

A second period of my life began later, when in October 1970, I emigrated to Switzerland. Although at the very beginning (October 1970 - March 1971) I was employed as a land-worker conducting a farm-practical on a typical 20 hectare Swiss farm near Bern, I did not forget my professional goals. Thus the following six moths I was able to obtain a position as an assistant to the professor of Biology, Marc Baillod, in the School of Agriculture of Marchelin sur Morges, near Lausanne (April - August 1971). In his presence I learned a lot, since among other things we conducted together regular scouting in fruit tree orchards and vineyards of the region, within the framework of Integrated Control, being at that time in its first stages of development. I am proud to tell that in this period I had the great chance to meet and to follow some IPM field-courses held by the famous Swiss pioneer of IPM, Mario Baggiolini.

I was employed as a practicing agronomist in The Swiss Federal Research Center of Agronomy, Reckenholz, near Zurich (September - December 1971), conducting tests to certify virus-free potatoes, when during an afternoon, while working in the green-

Full story ..
Resolution of Cryptic Species Complexes of Tephritid Pests to Enhance SIT Application and Facilitate International Trade

In: De Meyer M, Clarke AR, Vera MT, Hendrichs J (Eds).
Special issue of ZooKeys 540: 1–558

This special ZooKeys volume presents the result of a collaborative and integrated approach to resolve the species complexes and clearly demonstrates the advantage of combining efforts, expertise and team-working when addressing such a complex issue as species boundaries.

The collaboration between over fifty researchers from more than twenty countries resulted in twenty-five articles.

This coordinated multidisciplinary research will contribute to overcome phytosanitary trade barriers and apply more sustainable pest management strategies such as the Sterile Insect Technique (SIT).
A Review of Over 30 Years of a Successful Containment Program Using an Integrated Area-Wide SIT Approach

Walther Enkerlin, José Manuel Gutiérrez-Ruelas, Antonio Villaseñor Cortes, Edgar Cotoc Roldan, David Midgarden, Estuardo Lira, Jose Luis Zavala López, Jorge Hendrichs, Pablo Liedo and Francisco Javier Arriaga.

Florida Entomologist, 98(2):665-681

An Overview of Olive Fruit Fly in California Table Olives: Invasion, Distribution, and Management Implications

Victoria Y. Yokoyama


Preliminary trials on trapping Queensland fruit fly with male-biased and female-biased fruit fly trap and lure systems

Compiled by Andrew Jessup

NSWDPI, Ourimbah, NSW, Australia

New species of fruit flies from India

K. J. David and Abraham Verghese
Interregional Training Course on the Use of Sterile Insects and Related Techniques for Area-Wide Integrated Management of Insect Pests

Held at the “Moscafrut facility” at Metapa, Chiapas, Mexico from 03 to 28 August 2015, with a week (16-21 August) in Antigua Guatemala.

Compiled by Pablo Montoya

Guatemala – Mexico – USA
Trinational Moscamed Commission

Compiled by Pablo Liedo

3rd TEAM 2016 Meeting

11-14 APRIL 2016
Stellenbosch, South Africa
Update

Compiled by Brian Barnes

First Symposium of Tephritid Workers of Asia, Australia and Oceania (TAAO) 2016

15-18 August 2016
Palm Garden Hotel, Putrajaya
Malaysia

The brochure announcing the Inaugural TAAO Symposium Next Year in Malaysia! Watch it out! The web site will be ready soon

Prepared by Alvin Hee

Why not send us a short story about your lab or your research project?

Contributions received before 30th February 2016 will be posted on the next FFN issue (#33)
3rd MEETING OF THE TEPHRITID WORKERS OF EUROPE, AFRICA & THE MIDDLE EAST (TEAM 2016), 11-14 APRIL 2016, STELLENBOSCH, SOUTH AFRICA.

9th MEETING OF THE TEPHRITID WORKERS OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE (TWWH 2016), OCTOBER 2016, BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA.

1st MEETING OF THE TEPHRITID WORKERS OF ASIA, AUSTRALIA, AND OCEANIA. (TAAO 2016), 15-18 AUGUST 2016, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA.

10th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FRUIT FLY OF ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE (ISFFEI 2018), TAPACHULA, CHIAPAS, MEXICO.

Previous Fruit Fly Meetings

TEPHRITID FRUIT FLY REGIONAL GROUPS

Keep your TWD Profile Updated to Stay ......CONNECTED!

Huge thanks to everyone who has done it!

List of References on Tephritidae

Since FFN 12 (February 2009) we have included in all issues a list of recent scientific papers on Tephritidae. We have decided to stop doing this from this issue, as we believe that most of our readers have access to online browsers or search programs that enable them to find relevant publications in a more useful format. Our list is therefore probably of little or no help. However, if you have found our list useful, please let us know, so we can consider re-instating it again in future issues.

Editors