



Menachem Jochanan (John) Berlinger 1937-2016

Obituary contributed by Dr. Phyllis Weintraub, former Vice President of IOBC-WPRS.

Menachem was born in Haifa, Israel in 1937. He entered his undergraduate studies at The Faculty of Agriculture of the Hebrew University in 1958. He specialized in agricultural entomology, completed a M.S. on insect-plant relationships in 1963. He was then hired by the Agricultural Research Organization, Ministry of Agriculture, to work at the Gilat Research Center. He was awarded a Ph.D. in 1972 for research into biological control of citrus mealybug in grape vineyards in the Negev and continued working as a researcher at Gilat until his retirement in 1997.

He specialized in behavioral ecology of insects, biological and physical control and integrated pest management. Over the years he studied a wide range of pests of deciduous fruit trees and vegetables and pest control in organic farming. In the mid-1960s to 1970s, the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci* vectored viruses to tomatoes and growers were spraying with insecticides once a day to combat the pathogen spread. Menachem was instrumental in helping to establish insect-proof screening as a management technique and worked closely the development of different screening types and materials. This development literally saved the tomato industry from destruction in Israel.

Menachem was one of the first teachers in the Department of Life Sciences of Ben Gurion University of the Negev. Additionally he joined different research teams during sabbatical leaves in: Wageningen, The Netherlands; Zurich, Switzerland, and Wooster, Ohio, USA. Throughout his years of teaching, Menachem influenced many high school, undergraduate and graduate students both nationally and from abroad. He published many academic review and non-review articles and chapters (including more than a dozen article in the IOBC Bulletins), as well as articles in the popular press and growers' magazines until 2004.

Menachem will be remembered as a humble man with inexhaustible patience and the warm enthusiasm that he always graced anyone who had the good fortune to know him personally. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and colleagues, his wife Nechemia, daughters Orah and Efrat, and their families.

Testimonial from Prof. Ramon Albajes, former Vice President and Treasurer of IOBC-WPRS

I will remember Menachem as a highly competent scientist and a great colleague. I first met him in the 1980s in IOBC-WPRS Working Group on “Integrated Control in Protected Crops of the Mediterranean Area”, where he was quite active. Since then we have collaborated in several occasions, including for the publication of a book, for which he contributed to a chapter on Integrated Pest and Disease Management in Protected Crops. I remember that in the IOBC-WPRS Working Group, Menachem played a key role by emphasizing very early the potential importance of the white fly *Bemisia tabaci* in greenhouse vegetable and ornamental crops, at a time when the global threat posed by this pest was not yet recognized and only *Trialeurodes vaporariorum* was considered a major pest. He shared with the IOBC community his experience with coping with this emerging pest in Israel, and this was tremendously useful for all of us to adapt IPM programs when the facts proved him right and *Bemisia* became a global pest in the Western Mediterranean area.

In addition to his great competence, he always had extremely friendly relationships with me and other colleagues. He was very open-minded and constructive in discussions with colleagues who expressed different opinions about how to manage IPM programmes in greenhouses. Thanks to his amiable personality, we were all able to benefit from his professional experience. His passing away is a tremendous loss for our IPM community.