

Working Group “Integrated Control in Citrus Fruit Crops”

Report of the meeting held in Adana, Turkey, 7-9 May 2013

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The meeting was held in Adana, Turkey, between 7 and 9 of May 2013, organized by the Çukurova University, Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Plant Protection and Biological Control Research Station, with Serdar Satar as local organizer. First and third days were dedicated to presentations and posters, and in the intermediate day there was a technical excursion to visit some citrus orchards and citrus industry facilities located in the Çukurova region.

In all, 75 participants assisted, a slight decrease compared with previous meetings of the Citrus Working Group such as Agadir (Morocco) in 2010 (103 participants), Catania (Italy) in 2007 (139), Lisbon (Portugal) in 2005 (100) and Valencia (Spain) in 2002 (60). The country with most participants in the meeting was Turkey (29), followed by Spain (6), Tunisia (5) and Israel (3). There were many countries represented by 1 or 2 participants, so the overall number of countries was 28, a rather high number compared with previous meetings. This was due to the coincidence of our meeting with another meeting on medfly which attracted 23 participants from different countries of the oriental region of Europe. This people assisted to our meeting during the first and second day, participating actively on it.

George J. Stathas, from Greece, was the invited speaker. He gave a lecture on Biological Control of citrus pests in Greece which was followed with interest by the participants. In all, 56 communications were presented (28 orals and 28 posters). The most represented topic was beneficial arthropods and biological control, with a total of 15 communications, followed by medfly *Ceratitidis capitata*, with 10 communications. Citrus diseases and studies on pesticide effect were treated in 7 communications each. Other four topics, with three communications each, were ants, citrus pests in general, nematodes and thrips.

The second day there was a full-day technical excursion which included the Application Farm of the Faculty of Agriculture, Çukurova University, the commercial citrus production area “Çay Çiftlik”, the experimental plot for biological research station in Erzin and the Býyotar Beneficial Insect Rearing Facility. During the third day there was a special session dedicated to the update of the Integrated Production

Guidelines of IOBC for Citrus, with ample discussion and lively debate, coordinated by Frank Wijnands, member of the IP Guidelines group of IOBC.

During the sessions of oral communications there were lively discussions on topics such as the identity and relative abundance of species of parasitoids of aphids in different areas of the Mediterranean, the double role that play the weed cover on citrus crops, either as competitor for resources with the crop or as supplier of food, shelter or alternative prey for natural enemies, and on fruit damage produced by thrips depending on the species present.

The descent in participants during this meeting is probably due to the current complex economic or political situation in many Mediterranean countries and to last-time problems of visas or permissions. Fifteen people who initially applied for the meeting cancelled their assistance, all of them from South or east Mediterranean countries. The group has been traditionally a meeting place for entomologists, but it has now a rather good representation of plant pathologists. Main challenges for the group are to encourage cooperation within members of the WG in methodology or research projects, stimulate discussion in the meetings and at the mailing list, and to support and encourage the participation of postgraduate students and young scientists.

The next meeting was provisionally agreed to be organized in Tunisia with Prof. Brahim Chermiti, from the Institut Supérieur Agronomique de Chott-Mériem, Université de Sousse, as local organizer.