



PREFACE

The Sixth Conference of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists was held in Swaziland from August 21 to August 28, 1972. The formal conference was preceded by a tour of research facilities and citrus-growing areas of South Africa, including stops at the Plant Quarantine Station, the Fruit and Fruit Technology Research Institute, the Viticultural and Oenological Research Institute, all at Stellenbosch; Groot Constantia, near Muizenberg; the K. W. V. Winegrowers Cooperative, Paarl; Buffelspoort Experimental Farm, near Pretoria; orchards near Rustenburg; the Institute for Plant Protection, Pretoria; Zebediela Estate, Northern Transvaal; orchards in the Tzaneen area; Kruger National Park; Burgershall Substation near Nelspruit; and citrus estates near Nelspruit.

In Swaziland the delegates visited orchards of the Tambankulu Estates and the Malkerns Experiment Station.

Following the meetings in Swaziland, there was a post-conference tour of citrus-growing areas of the Malagasy Republic, Reunion, and Mauritius.

In the Malagasy Republic, delegates visited orchards near Tananarive, experiment stations near Tamatave and Tulear, and a large citrus planting near Morondava. On Reunion, stops were made at several orchards in various parts of the island and at the volcano.

Delegates toured the island of Mauritius, stopping at several citrus orchards to observe greening. Other stops on Mauritius included the Government House, the University of Mauritius, and the Reduit Experiment Station.

The delegates were well received at

all stops on the pre- and post-conference tours.

The Sixth Conference was sponsored by the Swaziland Citrus Board. One hundred delegates, 18 accompanied by their wives, registered at the Royal Swazi Hotel near Mbabane. Delegates came from Brazil, Cuba, France (including Reunion), India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malagasy, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Rhodesia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand and the United States. All were warmly welcomed by His Majesty, King Sobhuza II K. B. E. Ngwenyama of Swaziland.

At the banquet in Mbabane on August 27, E. C. Calavan was installed as Chairman of IOCV to succeed J. M. Bové, and L. G. Weathers was installed as Chairman-elect.

Advances made in our knowledge of citrus viruses since publication of the 5th Proceedings include: (1) the discovery that some diseases heretofore regarded as of virus etiology are in fact due to mycoplasma or mycoplasma-like organisms. (2) A new type of pathogen, a minimal infectious molecule, is the cause of exocortis disease. This molecule, variously referred to as "meta-virus," "viroid," and "pathogene," was found to induce the spindle tuber disease of potato in addition to exocortis. (3) The development of new techniques in serology, virus purification, and electron microscopy has made possible more detailed characterization of viruses. All this new knowledge, together with that from previous conferences, makes it difficult to cover everything in one book.

The editorial policies for this volume were similar to those used in the 5th

Proceedings. Many of the papers were substantially condensed, in the interest of economy, and were partly rewritten. In almost all instances, authors had an opportunity to approve the changes that were made. Opinions expressed in the papers are those of the authors.

As in the 5th Proceedings, Latin binomials provided by the authors appear in an addendum.

I am much indebted to Dr. M. Cohen, the co-editor of these proceedings, who did much to bring the manuscripts into form for publication.

I personally wish to acknowledge, with thanks, the capable assistance of Miss Lucy G. Lawrence, Editor, Agricultural Publications, Berkeley, who did the final editing of the manuscripts.

For funds, stenographic help, and suggestions, thanks are expressed to the Department of Plant Pathology, University of California, Riverside.



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