



**Dedicated to
Ralph Eduard Schwarz
(1929-1979)**

These Proceedings are dedicated to the memory of Dr. Ralph Eduard Schwarz, a devoted long-time member and Past President of IOCV, and a most helpful and affectionate friend.

Ralph was born on October 8, 1929 in the small town of Esslinger Baden—Wuerttemberg, Germany. He attended primary and secondary schools in Esslinger and then studied Agriculture at the Universities of Hohenheim and Tuebingen. He joined the Biologische Bundestalt in Berlin for post-graduate studies where he received a Ph.D. in 1958.

At the end of that same year he joined the Citrus Research Station at Nelspruit, South Africa, and acquired a second Ph.D. from the University of Pretoria. The title of his thesis was "Indexing and epidemiology of greening and some other citrus virus diseases in South Africa."

Ralph joined the IOCV and began his participation at the 1966 conference in Italy. Here, many of us were privileged to meet this intense enthusiastic, knowledgeable and most friendly person. He had a way of seeking you out and asking questions; and he was eager to discuss all aspects of citrus virus diseases with you.

Ralph worked in and visited many places through the world. He was technical advisor for F. A. O., the World Bank and Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit. He carried out studies and surveys on citrus problems in Thailand, Spain, Ethiopia, Brazil and Argentina. Ralph visited almost all of the citrus research centers of the world and was an authority on citrus greening disease. He published extensively on greening in South Africa where he trapped vectors and recorded their movement, discovered fluorescent markers in fruit and phenolic substances diagnostic for greening. He recorded greening strains and their distribution in South Africa and experimented with tetracycline injection and thermotherapy for control of the disease. He published on tristeza epidemiology and aphid

vector movements. He experimented with indicators for exocortis and developed a leaf-union method of indexing.

He described two new virus diseases of citrus: gum pocket in trifoliolate rootstock and the multiple sprouting disease. His last paper given at the IOCV in Australia described the fruta bolita disease in Misiones Province of Argentina. Here, with his coworkers he suggested its possible relationships to blight and tristeza. He worked very intensively on this problem, developed the experimental facilities at Montecarlo, Misiones, Argentina and directed the extensive German-Argentina cooperative project there.

Tragedy struck at the very peak of his career, Ralph had just returned from the IOCV meetings in Australia after assuming the Presidency of our Society when he was killed in an automobile accident on July 4, 1979 in Misiones Province, Argentina.

Ralph was a warm and loving person. His mother writes that "membership in IOCV was one of the most important events in his life. There he found his most intense professional and personal contacts." John Moll summarizes the sentiments of many of us who knew him. "I only knew Ralph for less than a year, but will be influenced by him for life. As a senior research partner he was the most friendly, considerate, kind and exciting person that anyone could have the privilege and good fortune to have associated with." He is deeply missed by all.

C. N. Roistacher