

PREFACE

The Eleventh Conference of the International Organization of Citrus Virologists was held in Orlando, Florida from November 6-10, 1989. A preconference workshop was held at the University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, Florida from October 24-28. In depth workshops were held in three areas: blight diagnosis and virus indexing; insect transmission of citrus viruses; and electrophoretic and hybridization techniques.

A preconference tour of the Florida citrus growing area and its disease problems was conducted from November 1-4. Participants visited the University of Florida, Agricultural Research and Education Center at Ft. Pierce in the heart of the Indian River citrus growing area where they observed experiments on exocortis, citrus blight, and citrus tristeza. They observed blight and tristeza quick decline epidemics which were occurring in commercial groves in the area. A containerized citrus nursery and a citrus packinghouse also were visited. The Flatwoods citrus growing area south of Lake Okeechobee was seen on day two of the tour and included rootstock experiments on blight and management techniques for tristeza affected plantings on sour orange rootstock. The tour finished on day three in the Ridge citrus growing area with stops at a citrus nursery, at experiments to transmit blight and to screen rootstocks for tolerance to the disease, and to observe post bloom fruit drop.

The conference began in Orlando on November 6 at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel. Registrations for the conference totaled 128. The opening session was chaired by Dr. Mort Cohen, retired citrus virologist from Ft. Pierce and welcoming remarks were given by Dr. C. N. Niblett, Chairman of the local arrangements committee, Dr. W. J. Kender, Director of the Citrus Research and Education Center, Lake Alfred, Dr. E. L. Civerolo, USDA, National Program Staff, Dr. Richard Mayer, Director of the USDA Horticultural Research Laboratory, Orlando, and Florida Agricultural Commissioner Doyle Conner. The remainder of the day was dedicated to paper and poster sessions on tristeza. Day two of the conference began with papers and posters on citrus viroids and continued with sessions on citrus blight. On the third day of the conference the morning session was dedicated to other viruses of citrus and to therapy methods for control. The afternoon session was devoted to papers and posters on greening and stubborn diseases. Discussion sessions followed paper presentations for each disease and provided a good atmosphere for a vigorous exchange of ideas. The fourth day of the conference was held at the University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC), Lake Alfred, where a symposium was presented on the "Role of Biotechnology for the Control of Citrus Diseases." Guest speakers included Dr. Jude Grosser of the University of Florida, CREC on somatic cell hybridization and its potential to improve disease resistance, Ms Martha Burke of Ceres 2000, Winter Haven, FL, on application of tissue culture techniques in commercial citrus nurseries, and Dr.

Roger Beachy of Washington University, St. Louis, MO on the application of genetically engineered cross protection to control virus diseases. After an excellent program and discussion the IOCV delegates had lunch provided by the Florida Department of Citrus and then spent the afternoon touring the facilities of the research center and observing other exhibits. The day ended with a barbeque dinner and social at CREC. The last day of the conference was spent visiting a field experiment on the transmission of blight via root grafts and field evaluation of mild strain cross protection for prevention of tristeza quick decline on sour orange rootstock and touring the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industries, citrus arboretum and budwood program. The IOCV banquet was held at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel that night where the Wallace Award for the best paper at the 10th Conference was presented to J. S. Semancik, C. N. Roistacher, and N. Duran-Vila for their paper, "A New Viroid is the Causal Agent of Citrus Cachexia Disease." The presidential gavel was handed over from Luis Navarro to Chet Roistacher.

On November 11th many of the delegates to the conference left for California to attend the post-conference tour of the California citrus industry. The post-conference trip began with a welcoming party at the home of Dr. David Gumpf. The first day consisted of tours of the facilities of the University of California, Riverside, Department of Plant Pathology, the germplasm repository and the clonal protection facilities. On the second day the entire group was bused to the Central Valley to visit the Willits & Newcomb Inc. citrus nursery and to observe the citrus tristeza suppression program. After an overnight stay in Visalia, the tour continued to the Lindcove Experiment Station and visits to the foundation plantings. The group then continued on to Yosemite National Park and had a picnic lunch at the Mariposa grove of giant sequoias. After a restful night at the Yosemite Lodge, the group reconvened for a symposium on "Effective Operation of a Virus-Free Program." Discussion topics included tristeza, blight, and viroids. The postconference group sadly left Yosemite the next day and the postconference tour ended that evening with a social and dinner in the honor of E. C. Calavan and Mrs. J. M. Wallace at the home of Chet and Jean Roistacher. A number of retired citrus scientists attended and included Henry Schneider, Walt Reuther, Bob Platt, Lew Weathers, Marvin Miller, and Albert Newcomb.

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