

OBITUARY

Eli Cohn
1932-1991

Dr. Eli Cohn, one of the pioneering founders of the discipline of nematology in Israel, died of a heart attack in Orlando, Florida, on 14 January 1991.

Dr. Cohn was born on 8 February 1932 in Danzig, then Free City, and immigrated to Kenya in 1938 and to Israel in 1950. He earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the Hebrew University in 1960, 1962, and 1966. His Masters thesis, "Effect of root-knot nematodes on *Fusarium*-resistant varieties of tomato," was completed in 1962. Professors S. P. Monselise and G. Minz directed Dr. Cohn's doctoral dissertation, "Host-plant relationships of the citrus nematode on sour orange and sweet lime rootstocks," which concerned the etiology, ecology, pathogenicity, and host-parasite relations of the citrus nematode, *Tylenchulus semipenetrans*. Dr. Cohn also studied at Rothamsted Experimental Station, England, and at the Phytopathological Research Organization, Wageningen, the Netherlands, under FAO support.

Initially appointed a researcher in nematology at the Agricultural Research Organization (ARO), The Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel, in 1959, Dr. Cohn was subsequently appointed Head of the Division of Nematology, Volcani Center, in 1967; Head of the Division of Plant Pathology in 1977; and Director of ARO's Institute of Plant Protection in 1978. Dr. Cohn served as Deputy Director of ARO Research from 1986 to 1990. As a Professor of the Department of Plant Pathology in the Faculty of Agriculture, Hebrew University, Rehovot, he taught three courses in nematology and supervised 10 graduate students. Dr. Cohn was a member of the U.S.-

Israel, Germany-Israel, and France-Israel joint scientific committees.

Dr. Cohn was internationally recognized for his nematological expertise. He participated in and chaired numerous international symposia, colloquia, workshops, and meetings where he presented original ideas and research findings. He was a visiting scientist and visiting professor at the Department of Nematology, University of California, Riverside (1970-1971), at the Citrus and Subtropical Fruit Research Institute, Nelspruit, Republic of South Africa (1975-1976), at the U.S. Horticultural Research Laboratory, USDA-ARS, Orlando, Florida (1982-1983 and 1990-1991), and at the Institut für Phytopathologie, Christian Albrechts Universität, Kiel, Germany (1983). He was guest lecturer for several international courses including the NATO Advanced Study Institute on Nematode Vectors of Plant Viruses, Italy (1974), and at the University of Chile, Santiago, in 1982. He served as a consultant to FAO in India (1970) and Malta (1974).

As recognition for his outstanding contributions to nematology, the Society of Nematologists named Dr. Cohn a Fellow of the Society at its 25th Jubilee Meeting at Orlando, Florida, in 1986. Dr. Cohn made significant contributions in the areas of plant-nematode interactions, nematode ecology, population dynamics, nematode recognition, rearing methods, and biological control. He also contributed to our knowledge of the host range, biology, ecology, and pathogenicity of the citrus nematode and conducted research on nematodes as virus vectors. Dr. Cohn was particularly interested in specialized feed-

ing sites associated with sedentary nematodes. He stimulated research on nematode recognition in Israel and elsewhere. He authored more than 100 refereed publications, numerous articles in nonrefereed journals, and 12 book chapters.

Dr. Cohn served on the editorial boards of *Nematologia Mediterranea* (1973–1979), *Revue de Nématologie* (1977–1991), *Nematologica* (1982–1991), *Journal of Nematology* (1983–1985), and *Israeli Journal of Agricultural Research* (1967–1970). He was chairman of the Editorial Board of *Israel AgResearch* (1986–1991) and founding editor of *Phytoparasitica*, *Israel Journal of Plant Protection Sciences*. He was highly committed to development of the Nematology Division of the Agricultural Research Organization, Volcani Center.

Eli dedicated his life to excellence in research, teaching, and writing. He was an

inspiration to his colleagues, and he stimulated others to maximize their research potential. He demonstrated strong leadership skills and contributed significantly to Israel's agriculture, the discipline of nematology, and to the Division of Nematology, ARO, Volcani Center.

Eli loved to travel and to experience the cultures of the world. He was a very special and unique person, making friends wherever he went. He was vibrant and outgoing, and he cared about others. He was a dedicated friend who always took time to assist those in need. His lust for life, his love of family, his appreciation of a good dessert, and his dedication to truth in science are his legacy. Those who had an opportunity to know him are very lucky, indeed.

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