



NEWSLETTER

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL ECOLOGY

Vol. 13, No. 1, February, 1996

International Society of Chemical Ecology - Prague 13th Annual Meeting - Call For Papers

The 13th ISCE annual meeting will be held August 18-22, 1996 in Prague, The Czech Republic. You must return the enclosed registration form by **April 30, 1996** since the number of participants is limited by accommodation capacity. The Organizing Committee will give preferences to those who pre-register. Student travel award applications should be mailed no later than **March 31, 1996**.

The Program will consist of plenary lectures, short oral presentations (15 minutes), poster presentations, and a social program. There will be an accompanying persons program with a wide-range of activities and pricing. There also will be post-symposium tours.



The Scientific Program is as follows:

1. Physiology and Mode of Action of

Semiochemicals: K.E. Kaissling, Seewiesen, Germany; J. Hildebrand, Tucson, Arizona; R. Vogt, Columbia, South Carolina; Glenn Prestwich, Stony Brook, New York.

2. Chemically Mediated Interactions

Within and Among Trophic Levels: T. Hartmann, Braunschweig, Germany; T. Turlings, Zurich, Switzerland; L. Vet, Wageningen, The Netherlands; J. Pickett, Rothamsted, UK.

3. Biochemistry of Secondary Me-

tabolites: W. Boland, Bonn, Germany; T. Savage, Pullman, Washington; D. Daloz, Brussels, Belgium.

4. Practical Application of

Semiochemicals: H. Arn, Wadenswil, Switzerland; P. Witzgall, Alnarp, Sweden; G. Daterman, Corvallis, Oregon; P. Kirsch, West Linn, USA.

5. Special Lecture: K. Mori, Tokyo, Japan.

6. Silverstein-Simeone Award Lecture

Registration: Sunday, August 18th.

Abstracts: Poster and Oral Session abstracts are due before April 30, 1996.

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ISCE Newsletter is published tri-annually, in October, February and June. It is financed through member contributions. None of the material contained herein may be reprinted without the proper written acknowledgement of the editor. Address all correspondence and newsletter submissions to the editor. Deadline for the next issue is May 15, 1996.

Fees: Includes room/board/and registration in CDMS Krystal Hotel. Before April 30th. ISCE members \$700; Non-members \$750; Accompanying person: \$580 If you prefer to be accommodated in a student dormitory, fee is \$580 (5 minute walk to conference center).

For further information contact: Juraj Harmatha, Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Flemingovo nam. 2, CZ-166 10 Prague, Czech Republic.

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Prague, Czech Republic
April 18-22, 1996

From the Editor

- There are 3 inserts in this newsletter: the Prague registration form; abstract instructions; and the student travel award applications. Registration and abstracts are due April 30, 1996. Student Travel form is due March 31, 1996.
 - Nominations for ISCE Officers should be sent to Past President Jeremy McNeil. Deadline is March 31, 1996. The Executive Committee needs your suggestions for Vice-President. I am in my second term as Secretary. Volunteers, step forth!
 - Nominations for Silver Medal Awardees should be sent to Martine Rowell-Rahier by March 31, 1996.
 - Nominations for the Silverstein-Simeone Plenary Lecture Award should be sent to President John Pickett by April 30, 1996
- It's good to see people using the newsletter as a forum for ideas. Please continue to send contributions!

- John Romeo

Silver Medal to Wittko Francke

The recipient of the 1995 ISCE Silver Medal was Wittko Francke, Professor in the Chemistry Department at the University of Hamburg, Germany. Dr Francke has been Director of the Institute of Organic Chemistry and is currently Dean.

As a young man Wittko spent much of his free time as a research assistant to his mother, Dr.

H. Francke-Grosman, an internationally renowned forest entomologist. Although he decided to pursue a career in chemistry, his early experiences in biology left a lasting impression which explains his remarkable contributions to the field of chemical ecology. He was the first to identify an entirely new class of volatile natural products, the spiroacetals. These compounds serve as pheromones and kairomones in different insect Orders. He has been involved in their identification, characterization, and synthesis. He collaborates with a large number of both chemists and ecologists world-wide, and this interdisciplinary effort has resulted in the discovery of many previously unknown compounds involved in intra- and interspecific communication within a wide array of organisms. Recently he has expanded his work into marine ecosystems. He heads the Division of Marine Organic Chemistry at his University.

Dr. Francke's interest in Chemical Ecology has not been limited to his own research endeavors. He has, unquestionably, been one of the most active members of our Society. He served as Councilor (1986-89) and President (1989-1990). He has been an active fund raiser, was instrumental in elaborating the ISCE logo and awards, and prepared a "resume" of the Society that currently appears on our World-Wide Web site.

Dr. Francke is an outstanding scientist who is devoted to chemical ecology. He is a generous human being who has worked tirelessly to advance the field. It is fitting that the ISCE has recognized his efforts by awarding him the Society's highest honor, the Silver Medal. The medal was presented by Past President Jeremy McNeil at the annual meeting in Chile in October.



Professor Wittko Francke accepting award

Guest Editorial - Justin O. Schmidt Plant Natural Products vs Plant Secondary Compounds

During the primordial days of chemical ecology, the field seemed relegated mainly to organic chemists. As chemists, most were not experienced in biology and had little appreciation for the potential function of the plant compounds they discovered. Hence compounds that were not primary (proteins, amino acids, carbohydrates, lipids, vitamins, structural polymers, etc.) were often considered to be plant "waste products" and, therefore, "secondary compounds". No obvious use to the plant was evident to the discoverers, and many contained nitrogen - hence, they might be ways to shunt waste nitrogen out of the way.

Today, virtually everybody realizes that this view was pathetically simplistic and incorrect; yet we still commonly use the term "plant secondary compounds". Although many may be using the phrase innocently and out of tradition, it does harbor back to naive and incorrect concepts. Plant natural products are anything but "secondary" - indeed, virtually all plants need them to exist.

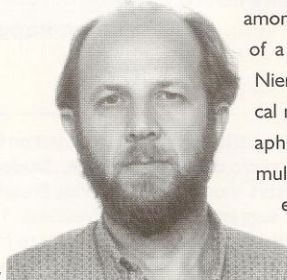
As a Society, we should perhaps take the lead in actively promoting the more scientifically appropriate phrase "plant natural products".

I suggest this could be done in several ways: 1) promote discussion of the pros and cons in the newsletter; 2) encourage usage of the phrase to anyone who submits material using old phraseology; and 3) encourage editors of journals including our own J. of Chem. Ecology to make it a policy to substitute the term for older terminology. The alternative is to do nothing and hope the old terminology goes away. I have been waiting 30 years for this to happen, and it has not. Comments?

Niemeyer Honored

Prof. Hermann M. Niemeyer was awarded a Presidential Chair in Science. The Chair was instituted for the first time in Chile in 1995 in order to support active Chilean scientists with distinguished careers in science. The competition was open to scientists from all fields and was decided by an international jury composed of scientists.

Twelve Chairs were awarded this year from amongst 90 applicants. The Chair consists of a stipend for 2 years to further Prof. Niemeyer's research, building on the chemical nature of the interactions between an aphid and its host plant, emphasizing multitrophic interactions under variable environmental conditions, and taking into account the ontogeny of the organisms involved.



Professor Hermann M. Niemeyer

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nominations are requested from the membership for the Silverstein/Simeone plenary lecture for the Society's meeting in Prague, August 18-22, 1996. The choice for the lecture award should be based absolutely on scientific merit but taking into account the impact of such on the subject of chemical ecology. This highly prestigious lecture award is in recognition of the enormous contribution Drs. Silverstein and Simeone have made to the field of chemical ecology, and the sponsor of the lecture is the Plenum Publishing Corporation, the publishers of our journal. The first lecture award was to Professor Wilhelm Boland of the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry at Bonn University, who presented a wonderful account of "How to survive with volatiles: plant contre herbivore". For nomination of candidates, provide the names and details of the proposer and second, a brief CV for the candidate and a paragraph of recommendations.

The ISCE WWW Site has been improved. Check it out and continue to send your suggestions for its development. You can read the abstracts from the 1995 Chile meeting there, or the last newsletter. Maintaining the site is a bit of a problem, but we are working on it.

<http://www.cas.usf.edu/ISCE/>

The Plant Growth Regulator Society of America was formed in 1973 as a forum for scientists from diverse disciplines to exchange ideas and information on different facets of plant growth regulation. To better reflect the broad scope of research activities and interest, the members have changed its name to the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America.

Competitive Travel Awards

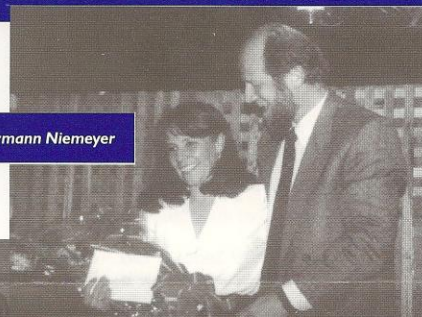
The Society will continue its tradition of supporting student travel to attend annual meetings. All student members of ISCE are encouraged to apply. Applications are evaluated by the Student Awards Committee. To be eligible, a student must meet all of the following criteria: be a paid-up member of ISCE; be a full time graduate student or a full-time postdoctoral research associate; present a paper or poster at the Prague meeting; must not have previously received an ISCE travel grant.

Applications (enclosed) should be sent airmail and postmarked before March 31, 1996 to: Dr. Juraj Harmatha, Institute of Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry, Flemingovo nam. 2, CZ-166 10 Prague, Czech Republic



Student Travel Award Winners, 1995

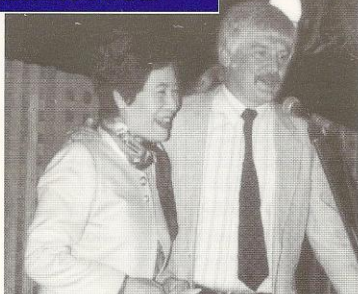
CHILEAN MEMORIES



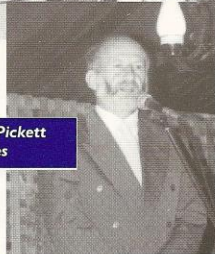
Hosts Cecilia and Hermann Niemeyer

Professors Boland and Francke

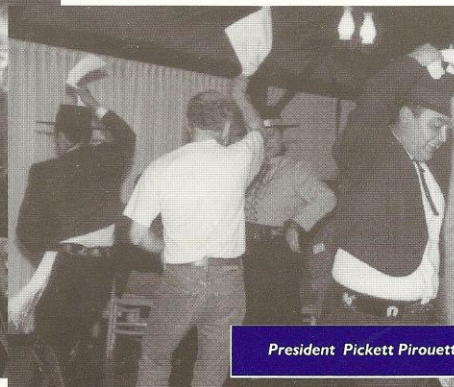
Drs. Naya and McNeil announce the student travel awards.



President Pickett Pontificates



President Pickett Pirouettes



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Settlement and Metamorphosis of Marine Invertebrate Larvae.

Plymouth England, 15-19 July, 1996. Themes include: Nature of chemical cues to settlement; perception of cues; natural product inhibitions of cues.

Contact: Dr. Tony Clare, Marine Biological Association, Citadel Hill, Plymouth PL1 2PB, UK. Phone: +44 1752-633100; Fax: +44 1752-633102; e-mail: T.Clare@pml.ac.uk

2nd International Conference on Insect Pests in the Urban Environment.

Edinburgh, UK. 7-10 July, 1996.

Contact: I.M. Anderson, School of Biological Sciences, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, UK. Phone: +44 0 1214145477; Fax: +44 0 1214145925; e-mail: m.anderson@uk.ac.birmingham

XX International Congress of Entomology.

Florence Italy. 25-31 August, 1996.

Contact: Congress Organizing Secretariat OIC, via La Marmora, 24 50121 Florence, Italy. Phone: +39 55 500063; Fax: +39 55 5001912

6th International Behavioral Ecology Conference.

Canberra, Australia. 29 Sept.- 4 Oct., 1996.

Contact: Andrew Cockburn, Botany & Zoology, Australian National University, Canberra, ACT 02000, Australia. e-mail: issbe6@anu.edu.au

Aphidophaga 6 - Biological Control and Management of Aphids.

Gembloux, Belgium. 4-6 September, 1996. Symposium on the Ecology of Aphidophaga. Working group of the I.O.B.C. I.

Contact: Dr. J.L. Hemptinne. Fax: +32 081 61 45 44; e-mail: hemptinne@fsagx.ac.be

Herren Honored

Professor Hans Herren, Director of the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Nairobi, Kenya was recently awarded the World Food Prize of \$200,000. Dr. Herren's work in biological control against the Cassava mealybug in Africa is well-known. The tiny South American wasp, *Epidinocarsis lopezi* is the control agent which lays its eggs on the mealy bug which then devour the carcass.

He is now pioneering work in preventing locust problems by novel semiochemistry. Dr. Herren and his colleagues think they can produce and distribute a pheromone that stops locusts from swarming. The pheromone has been tested in Port Sudan, and locusts can be kept in the solitary phase. They don't go into the aggregated phase because the pheromone weakens their whole defense system against diseases and pesticides. One potential pesticide is a natural pathogen, a fungus which can be added to the mix. A dosage 10 times lower than normal could be used to kill them because something changes in their physiology making them extremely susceptible.

Dr. Herren is Swiss born with a Ph.D. from Berkeley, California. The Society congratulates Professor Herren and appreciates what he has done for the world image of chemical ecology.

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