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Giuseppina Pellizzari: enhancing coccidiology by enhancing coccidiologists

Our time with Giuseppina started during the XIV (1985) National Entomology Congress in Palermo, Giuseppina and Tino shared a contribution on Italian Coccoidea Fauna with Salvatore Marotta and Antonio Tranfaglia.

Later, the 6th ISSIS in Krakow (1990) was the first Tino's opportunity to join the international community of scale insect students. During the meeting, Giuseppina introduced Tino to other colleagues despite his partial experience in the topic and the difficulties in English (Tino studied mealybugs, mostly). That was the opportunity for Giuseppina and Tino to build a robust and fruitful collaboration on scale insect fauna and zoogeography.

While attending the ISSIS-VII in Israel (1994) ARO Volcani Center at Bet Dagan (12-17 June, fig. 1) Francesco met the first time the coccidologists guild.

Giuseppina immediately immersed Francesco into the group. At that time, Giuseppina had a firm position as a professor, but she has been suggestingon the topic and situations very friendly, despite the fact that we have just met.

That was the start of a human and scientific friendship, still growing. Working together on papers, and visiting each other we were aware of Giuseppina studies on Scale Insects and the other many scientific interests of Giuseppina.

Later, Giuseppina organised the ISSIS IX in Padova (2001, fig. 2). She was tenacious and generous in engaging and driving all the Italian scale insect students to share their research theme and results with colleagues coming all around the world. In Padova, she set an example for leading and organising an international getting the nickname as "The Italian scale insects lady".

Giuseppina now focuses mostly on alien, invasive and quarantine scale insect species dealing with their Fauna, Taxonomy, new species description and risk assessment (fig. 3) because the bud of general scale insect studies is grafted and flourish

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Fig. 1 - Our first meet in Cohen Auditorium, ARO Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel.



Fig. 2 - Social tour shot during ISSIS IX in Padova (2001).

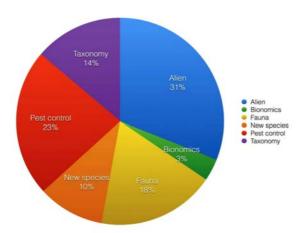


Fig. 3 - Percentage of the main topics in Giuseppina's scale insect studies.

on the root of robust basic pest control approach. She is also the principal driver of a series of studies on the Scale species in Italy and neighbouring Countries. Most of the scientific studies focus on Scale insects, but there are several kinds of interesting papers on other Hemiptera Families as Aleyrodidae, Psyllidae, Aphididae and Miridae. Further studies were focusing on non-Hemipteran Orders as Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, Hymenoptera and Diptera.

Relevant studies were published on Ceroplastes (Pellizzari & Camporese, 1994; Mori et al., 2001), on introduced scale insects (Pellizzari & Dalla Montà, 1997; Beltrà et al., 2010; Pellizzari & Porcelli, 2013; Mazzeo et al., 2013; Pellizzari & Porcelli, 2014; Ülgentürk et al., 2014), on indigenous but now invasive species (Pellizzari et al., 2012; Porcelli & Pellizzari, 2014; Roberto et al. 2016a; Roberto et al. 2016b;), on unusual species (Porcelli et al., 2012). Giuseppina described several new species in Eriococcidae: Acanthococcus mariannae (Pellizzari & Germain, 2010); Greenisca alpina & hellenica (Pellizzari & Kozar, 1999); Greenisca oreophila, Ovaticoccus agavacearum & exoticus (Pellizzari & Kozár, 2011); Pseudococcidae: Coccidohystrix zangherii (Kozár & Pellizzari, 1989); Coccidae: Lecanopsis clodiensis (Pellizzari, 1995); Lecanopsis marottai & mirabilis (Pellizzari & Fontana, 2002); Lecanopsis salvatorei, sicula & Hadzibejliaspis ferenci (Pellizzari, 2013); Prionococcus fontanai (Pellizzari & Hodgson, 2007); Toumeyella fontanai (Kondo & Pellizzari, 2011) and Diaspididae: Poliaspoides bambusae (Ülgentürk & Pellizzari, 2013).

Apart from the very fruitful engagement in Scale insect research, Giuseppina also managed a significant teaching charge from 1980 to date, giving course dealing with General Entomology, Agricultural Entomology, Entomology of ornamentals,

Acarology, Nematology, Zoology, Apiculture, Biological Control, both in Bachelor and Master courses. She is Supervisor/Co-supervisor of degree and PhD theses and Supervisor of research activity of foreigner visiting scientists at the University of Padua.

We wish to share the warm and friendly but sharp attitude Giuseppina has while studying a topic and preparing a paper for publication that are the key to her scientific personality and attitude to offer an excellent example of a Scale insect student and a thrilling counterpart for a colleague. Moreover, she is quickly intrigued by unusual and unconventional phenomena, morphologies or bionomics. Her fresh and polite personal touch resulted in many collaborative papers and studies with young promising and prominent from Mediterranean, Balkan and all the Palearctic realm also.

Crossing Giuseppina gave us the opportunity to recognise a tactful and very competent coccidologist and to start a still intriguing competition for reciprocal involvement and engagement in interesting and fruitful studies on Scale Insect. The sharing of scientific studies joined our personal life also creating a consistent, intense friendship that, in turn, enforces our delight to face new topic and research challenges.

Giuseppina participates most, if not all, of the relevant actual studies on scale insects joining persons, helping the young scientist, respecting and appreciating experience and knowledge.

Our story is that just by chance, but the acknowledgements to her role are from all Italian coccidologists.

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