

Professor Dan Gerling completed his MSc at the Faculty of Agriculture, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, and his PhD in 1965 at the University of California, Riverside, where he specialized in the biology of parasitoids – parasite wasps – in biological pest control. Following an additional year of research in the U.S., he returned to Israel and joined the Zoology Department at Tel Aviv University, which was to remain his scientific and intellectual home for many years and where he continued to work almost to the end.

Dan's scientific expertise lay in research of the tri-trophic links between plants, insect pests of agriculture and these insects' natural predators or enemies, with emphasis on his scientific work in the field of plant protection – integrated pest management in agricultural fields. In this framework Dan in particular studied in depth the whitefly *Bemisia tabaci*, a significant agricultural pest, both directly and as an indirect vector of viruses impacting crop growth, as well as studying the natural enemies of this whitefly.

From the scientific viewpoint, Dan engaged with ecology and insect behavior and how these influence interactions within the most complex systems. He published (many more than) 120 scientific papers, lectured in many places across the world, served as a guest scientist in many institutions, taught, established and nurtured an entire generation of professional individuals who have filled key roles on various agricultural boards. In addition, Dan was an active partner in establishing the first enterprise for biological control, set up in Sde Eliyahu.

Dan made an enormous contribution to Israel – also in the development of entomology and particularly from the applied aspects, as well as in promoting integrated pest management, for which he was among the pioneers in Israel. In less scientific terms – Dan contributed to increasing agricultural production in the country with a consequent less poisonous impact on people and the environment.

Dan was considered an international expert, reflected in his involvement in activity in the framework of the Peres Peace Centre, his activities under the auspices of the UN, his recent collaborations with China, his long-term connections with the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture, and his work in West Africa – in places in which his knowledge and expertise meant fewer starving people.

A look at Dan's work over the past decade – scientific research, participation in projects, supervision of research students, and providing international advice – gives no indication that Dan had officially retired. Dan remained forever a 'youthful

scientist', enthusiastic and involved. He would arrive on his bicycle, as usual, whenever called upon to contribute from himself. He participated in initiating courses on taxonomy, in establishing international connections, in enlisting resources to computerize the scientific collection, in helping the absorption of new immigrant scientists into the Museum team, and more.

The scientific subjects with which Dan engaged became increasingly relevant over the years, and particularly in recent years, in which issues such as 'environmentally friendly agriculture' and 'diet safety' have become significant and invested terms worldwide. Dan contributed generously from his scientific knowledge, and we and society have benefitted.

We shall sorely miss him.