

A SHORT HISTORY OF ICSV.

R. Bovey¹ and P. Gugerli²

¹Chemin de Trembley 27, CH 1197 Prangins, Switzerland

²Federal Agricultural Research Station of Changins, CH 1260 Nyon, Switzerland.

The idea of creating a scientific working group on virus diseases of grapevine came out during the third meeting on grapevine infectious degeneration organized by the Office international de la Vigne et du Vin (O.I.V.) in May 1962. The virologists present thought it would be useful to create an international study group independent from O.I.V., with the aim of providing an opportunity for grape virologists to discuss freely on their methods, their research and results.

Although this decision caused some disappointment or anger among some O.I.V. members, good relations were maintained with this important organization, which agreed to publish our first Bibliography prepared by A.Caudwell in 1965, and to organize a joint meeting with ICSV at Montpellier in 1970. ICSV is now invited to participate in each O.I.V. meeting as "Observers". Several specialists of our group participate in the O.I.V. experts' group "Grape diseases".

The first ICSV meeting took place at the Federal Agricultural Research Station of Changins, Switzerland, 17-20 August 1964, with about 30 participants. It was followed by an excursion at Arbois (France) and in Burgundy. A provisory committee was set up with following members: E.Baldacci (Italy), R.Bovey (Switzerland), A.Ciccarone (Italy), H.Dias (Portugal), W.Gärtel (Germany), W.B.Hewitt (USA) and A.Vuittenez (France). W.B. Hewitt (USA) acted as the first president from 1965 to 1987. G.P. Martelli serves as president since the meeting in Kyriat Anavim, Israel, in 1987.

The following meetings are listed below:

2. Davis (California USA) 7-11 September 1965 (organized by W.B.Hewitt) .
3. Bernkastel-Kues (West Germany) September 1967 (organized by W.Gärtel).
4. Colmar (France) 16-18 June 1970. The meeting in Colmar included visits to vineyards at Horbourg and Riquewihr and was followed by a common meeting with O.I.V. at Montpellier on practical applications of virological knowledge to viticulture (organized by A. Vuittenez and A. Caudwell).
5. Salice Terme (Italy) 16-19 September 1973. Field trip in Tuscany and Sicily 20-23 September (organized by E.Baldacci, G.Belli and E.Refatti).
6. Cordoba and Madrid (Spain), 12-17 September 1976. Post conference tour in the Rioja and Villafranca del Penedes viticultural regions (organized by A.Peña-Iglesias and Committee).
7. Niagara Falls (Ontario, Canada) 7-12 September 1980. Field trip to Geneva (N.Y.) and East Lansing (Michigan) (organized by H. Dias).
8. Bari (Italy) 2-7 September 1984. Post conference tour in Sardinia (organized by G.P.Martelli and U.Prota).
9. Kiryat Anavim (Israel) 6-11 September 1987. Post conference tour in northern Israel (organized by E.Tanne and Committee).
10. Volos (Greece) 3-7 September 1990. Post conference tour in southern Greece (organized by I.C.Rumbos and Committee).
11. Montreux (Switzerland) 5-10 September 1993. Post conference tour in Valais (P. Gugerli and Committee).
12. Lisbon (Portugal) 28 September - 2 October 1997. Post conference tour in northern Portugal (organized by O.A.De Sequeira and Committee).
13. Adelaide (South Australia) 12-17 March 2000 (organized by R.H.Symons and Committee).
14. Locorotondo (Italy) 12-17 September 2003. Technical and historical tours in Southern Italy, including Lecce and Pompei (organized by G.P. Martelli and Committee).
15. Stellenbosch (South Africa) 3 – 7 April 2006. Technical tours in Stellenbosch-Paarl region (organized by J. Burger and Committee).
16. Dijon (France) 31 August - 4 September 2009. Technical tours in Burgundy and Jura vineyards (organized by E- Boudon-Padieu and Committee).

The proceedings or summaries of these meetings have been published either as separate publications (2, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14) or in scientific journals (3, 4, 5, 8).

Other activities: Beside the meetings, contacts between ICVG members are maintained through the Newsletters which include an updated list of members with their postal and e-mail address, phone and fax numbers. Bibliographic reports have been published since 1965, covering most of the literature on grapevine virus and virus-like diseases, including phytoplasma diseases, from the origins to the present time. References on Pierce's diseases have been left out since 1997. ICVG has been associated with two publications: *Virus and Virus-like Diseases of Grapevines*, by R.Bovey, W.Gärtel, W.B.Hewitt, G.P.Martelli and A.Vuittenez, 1980; *Directory of Major Virus and Virus-like Diseases of Grapevines*, by R.Bovey and G.P.Martelli, 1992 (In collaboration with the Mediterranean Fruit Crop Improvement Council, MFCIC); *FAO/IBPGR Technical Guidelines for the Safe Management of Grapevine Germplasm*, edited by E.A.Frison and R.Ikin, 1991.

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