

## THE XXIth IWGO MEETING IN VENICE, ITALY

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The IWGO meeting was the first time within the International Working Group on Ostrinia (IWGO) history that both the “big” IWGO – Meeting and the Meeting of the Diabrotica Subgroup took place at the same time and at the same place. I actually doubt that we will ever find a local organizer who will take on such a workload again ! The response to the first call was larger than we anticipated: more than 120 scientists indicated interest in attending both meetings. At the meeting there were approximately 100 people from 27 countries. At the XIXth IWGO meeting in Guimares, Portugal, we had 30 participants and in Adana, Turkey, at the XXth IWGO meeting there were approximately 50 participants who we thought might be the peak of attendance of IWGO meetings. In Paris and Stuttgart, places of the most recent Diabrotica Subgroup meetings, about 60 people participated.

The reasons for the large amount of participants are two: the appearance of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte in Europe and a joint meeting of both working groups is certainly the most important reason. The second one is - and I do not hesitate to say it - the place of the meeting, Venice is really worthwhile coming to.

Since its establishment in 1968, the “International Working Group on Ostrinia” has been very active. Many meetings took place and several publications were issued:

- 1968      Founded in Moscow
- 1969      1st Meeting in Vienna, Austria
- 1970      2nd Meeting in Zemun, Yugoslavia (Serbia)
- 1971      3rd Meeting in Bordeaux, France
- 1972      4th Meeting in Martonvasar, Hungary
- 1973      5th Meeting in Zagreb, Yugoslavia (Croatia)
- 1974      6th Meeting in St. Paul; Minnesota; USA
- 1975      7th Meeting in Leningrad (St. Petersburg); Soviet Union (Russia)
- 1976      8th Meeting in Madrid , Spain
- 1977      9th Meeting in Wroclaw, Poland
- 1978      10th Meeting in Bergamo, Italy
- 1980      11th Meeting in Vienna, Austria
- 1982      12th Meeting in Pistany, CSSR (Slovakia)
- 1984      13th Meeting in Colmar, France
- 1986      14th Meeting in Beijing, China
- 1989      15th Meeting in Varna, Bulgaria
- 1991      16th Meeting in Martonvasar, Hungary
- 1993      17th Meeting in Volos Greece
- 1995      18th Meeting in Turda, Rumania

- 1997 19th Meeting in Braga, Portugal  
 1999 20th Meeting in Adana, Turkey  
 2001 21st Meeting in Venice, Italy

The original idea of IWGO was to exchange inbred lines within the group and test these lines for resistance against the most important maize pest throughout the world, the European Corn Borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis* Hbn.). The most latest results of this breeding program have been presented by Franja BACA within this meeting. But by this time the group had grown considerably and other pests also became of more interest. *Diabrotica* is just one of them and certainly the most important nowadays.

From 1973 – 1980 IWGO published the results of its breeding program and, since 1980, proceedings of all IWGO meetings were issued with the financial help of the Global IOBC.

Since 1980, IWGO publishes biannually the "IWGO - NEWSLETTER". The newsletter contains mainly the summaries of papers presented at previous meetings, but also a large number of original papers have also been published. The newsletter is also a medium to maintain contact within the group and to distribute information about the members. Until now, 21 volumes, consisting mostly of two issues per year have been released. Altogether 33 issues of more than 30 pages each were published.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF IWGO 1968 - 2001

- 1973 **Report of the International Project on *Ostrinia nubilalis* Phase I; Results 1969 - 1970;**  
 B. Dolinka (Edit.); Agric. Res. Inst. Hungarian Acad. of Sciences; Martonvasar; 168 p.
- 1975 **Report of the International Project on *Ostrinia nubilalis* Phase II;**  
 B. Dolinka (Edit.); Agric. Res. Inst. Hungarian Acad. of Sciences; Martonvasar; 138 p.
- 1976 **Report of the International Project on *Ostrinia nubilalis* Phase III;**  
 B. Dolinka (Edit.); Agric. Res. Inst. Hungarian Acad. of Sciences; Martonvasar;
- 1980 **Twelve Years Results (1969 - 1980) of IWGO issue of "Probleme de Protectia Plantelor" 9 (2);**  
 D. Mustea (Edit); Agricultural Research Station; Turda, Romania
- 1984 **Proceedings of the XII<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
 J. Janda (Edit.); Proroda, Bratislava pre vyskuminy ustov kukurice v. Trnave; 146 p.
- 1986 **Proceedings of the XIII<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
 P. Anglad & C. Cortez (Edit.) Colmar - Bordeaux , France; 116 p.
- 1986 **Proceedings of the XIV<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
 Zhou D.(Edit.) Beijing, Peoples Republic of China; 181 p.

- 1989 **Proceedings of the XV<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
T. Georgiev (Edit.) Technical University "A. Kanchev" ; Rouse, Bulgaria; 172 p.
- 1993 **Proceedings of the XVI<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
J. Tsitsipis (Edit.) University of Thessalia; Volos, Greece; 72 p.
- 1995 **Proceedings of the XVII<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
D. Mustea (Edit.) Agricultural Research Station Turda, Romania; 133 p.
- 1997 **Proceedings of the XVIII<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
Esteves-Silas Pego (Edit.) D. Draed – Numi; Braga, Portugal 341 p.
- 1998 **Proceedings of the XIX<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*;**  
Serpil Kornosor (Edit.) Cukurova University; Adana, Turkey 197 p.

Since 1980: 33 issues of "IWGO NEWSLETTER"

Since 1999: IWGO is also on www: <http://www.infoland.at/iwgo/>

But times change. While retaining the abbreviation "IWGO", the group changed its name to "International Working Group on *Ostrinia* and other Maize Pests". The group is now dealing with all aspects concerning corn pests throughout the world. Therefore the number of scientists interested in this Global IOBC working group has increased, primarily because maize is one of the most widespread crops in the world. It is grown in many countries on all continents. And the same main pests in maize occur almost everywhere where maize is grown.

IWGO Diabrotica Subgroup meetings took place in:

- Mar. 1995 1st Subgroup Meeting in Graz, Austria  
Nov. 1995 2nd Subgroup Meeting in Gödöllő, Hungary  
Oct. 1996 3rd Subgroup Meeting in Zagreb, Croatia  
Nov. 1997 4th Subgroup Meeting in Gödöllő, Hungary  
Oct. 1998 5th Subgroup Meeting in Rogaska Slatina, Slovenia  
Nov. 1999 6th Subgroup Meeting in Paris, France  
Nov. 2000 7th Subgroup Meeting in Stuttgart, Germany  
Nov. 2001 8th Subgroup Meeting in Venice, Italy

The 9th Subgroup Meeting is planned to take place in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, the core of our problem in October 2001.

In order to save program money throughout the world for scientific institutions, universities and even private companies, IWGO decided for the first time to combine the IWGO meeting (which originally took place every year and later every second year) with the Diabrotica Subgroup Meeting.

Previously, the meetings of the FAO Group, the EPPO ad hoc Panel and the EU Research Program Group had joined their meetings, but not together with the

IWGO group. But surely *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* is the main item in our meeting. Since the 1st Diabrotica subgroup meeting in Graz in 1995, where 25 colleagues from 6 countries were present, the pest has spread over a large area in central Europe. In 1995, only Serbia was infested. In 2001 the pest is also present in Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Bosnia – Herzegovina, Slovakia, Italy, Switzerland and Ukraine too. Austria, Slovenia and Albania are threatened.

IWGO is the oldest working group within the Global IOBC and is now in its 33rd year of existence. The group was founded in 1968 during the XIIIth International Congress of Entomology in Moscow. But the roots reach back to the US regional project on *Ostrinia* begun in 1951. The IWGO was established parallel to this US regional project. The founders of the group in 1968 were D. HADZISTEVIC (Yugoslavia), who had the original idea of founding a group of international cooperators, H.C. CHIANG (USA), who brought the ideas of the US projects into the group and was its first president, I.D. SHAPIRO from Russia (USSR), T. PERJU (Romania), C. KANIA (Poland) and B. DOLINKA (Hungary), all well-known researchers or maize breeders and founders and first members of IWGO. The second president after the retirement of Prof. Chiang in 1983, was Pierre ANGLADE from Bordeaux, France. Since 1993 I have been the convenor of the group.

As already mentioned, the main goal of the group was the exchange of inbred lines from different countries, their artificial infestation with corn borer eggs and evaluation of the resistance and tolerance of the lines.

The meeting of IWGO (both, the IWGO meeting and the meeting of the Diabrotica Subgroup) is well known for its high scientific value and for the output of its scientific work. And the meeting in Venice also fulfilled IWGO's high scientific standard.

Last but not least I want to express my thanks: my special thanks go to the local organizers Franco NORIDO, Stefano BARBIERI, Lorenzo FURLAN, Marco VETTORAZZO, Francesca GRANDIS, Silvia CERONI and Vanna FUNES who organized the meeting perfectly. Their challenge was that they had to deal not only with one meeting, but more or less 4 meetings with completely different emphases. In Austria we say "too many cooks spoil the cake". But at the end of the meeting I can say that they managed it perfectly. "The cake tastes wonderful". My warmest thanks goes to all of them.