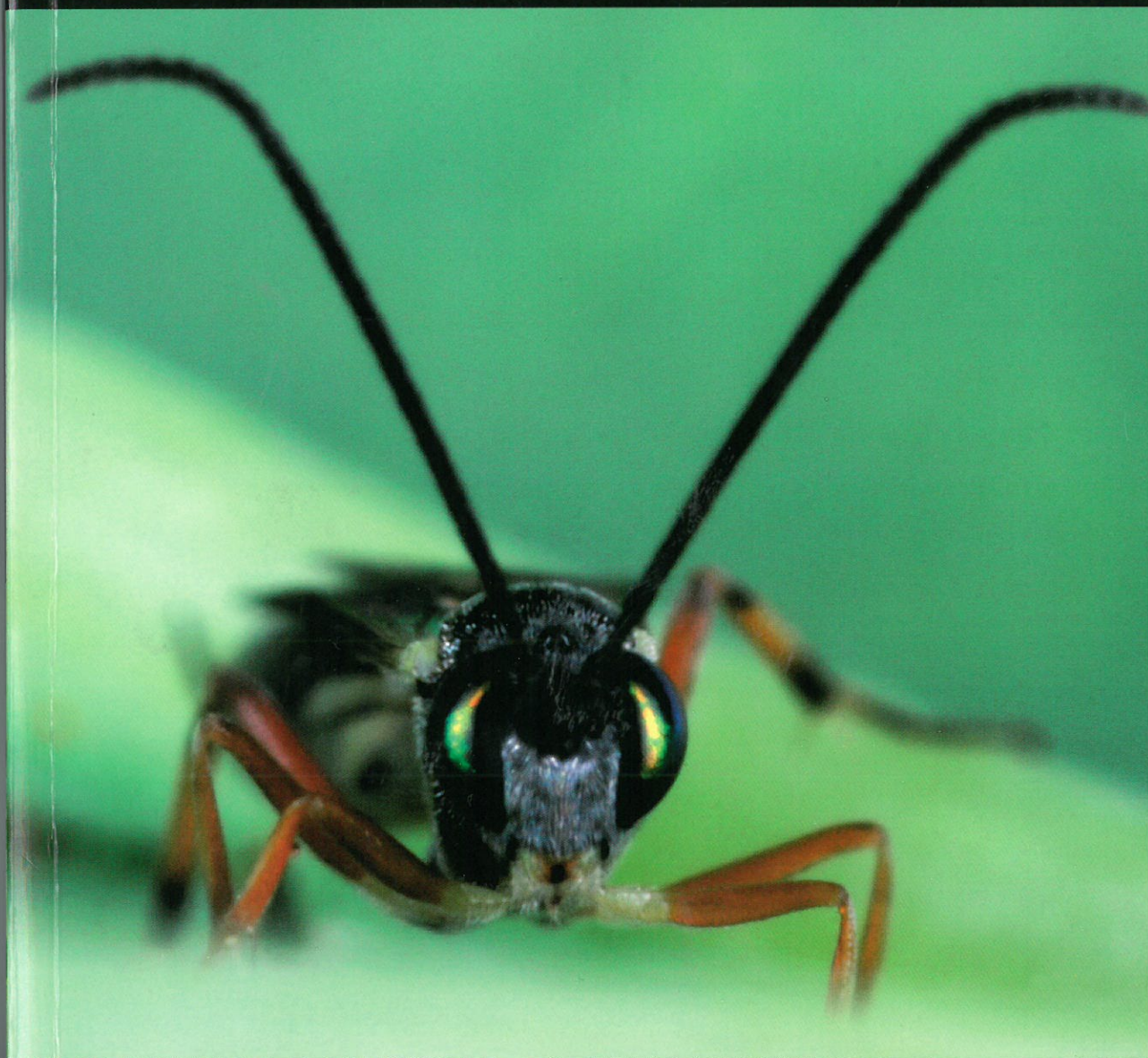


INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION
for **BIOLOGICAL CONTROL**
of Noxious Animals and Plants



History of the first 50 Years (1956-2006)

Ernst F. Boller, Joop C. van Lenteren & Vittorio Delucchi (Editors)



IOBC
OILB

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History of the first 50 Years (1956 – 2006)

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II.1 Global Working Group on *Ostrinia* and other maize pests (IWGO) (1968 – present)

Harald K. Berger and Ulrich Kuhlmann

Start and current status of Working Group

The International Working Group on *Ostrinia* (IWGO) is one of the oldest Working Groups within Global IOBC. The group was founded during the XIIIth International Entomological Congress in Moscow in 1968, but its roots go back to the USA regional project on *Ostrinia*, which began in 1951. IWGO was established through this USA regional project. The founders of the group were D. Hadzistevic (Yugoslavia), whose original idea it was to establish a group for international cooperation, H.C. Chiang (USA), who brought ideas from the USA regional project to the group, I.D. Shapiro (USSR), T. Perju (Romania), C. Kania (Poland), B. Dolinka and B. Nagy (Hungary) (Figure 1). All were well known entomologists or maize breeders. The group was originally organized so that each member country had an official "member" representative and all other participants were classified as "associate members." Researchers who took part in meetings from time to time were called "guest members."



Figure 1. Founders of the IWGO working group in 1968

The original idea of IWGO was to exchange maize inbred lines within the group and test these lines for resistance / tolerance against the world's most important maize pest at that time, the European corn borer (ECB), *Ostrinia nubilalis* Hubner. The results of this breeding program were to be made available to all member countries. Up until now, three synthetic breeding lines resistant to ECB have been developed and released (IWGO 1, 2, and 3, both late and early). Most of the results of this testing program were published by IWGO. As the membership of the group increased, interests expanded into other areas of ECB research. France (INRA), for example, established a pheromone project. Furthermore, the influence of other maize pests became increasingly important over time and thus, colleagues from Asia wanted to include problems with *Ostrinia furnacalis*. Southern European members also brought research work concerning *Sesamia nonagroides* into the group.

The appearance of *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* in Europe (Serbia) in 1992 became a further matter of discussion within the group. This appearance was so important that even a subgroup within IWGO was founded in 1995. In response to the enormous problems caused by the Western Corn Rootworm (*Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* LeConte), several meetings were held by the IWGO - *Diabrotica* subgroup (Table 1). In order to coordinate research activities on this pest, the European Union (EU), the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) joined the IWGO – meetings or coorganized meetings. Focusing research activities and cooperating with US scientists, who were already much more acquainted with this pest, has already helped to improve the “fight” against this new, dangerous pest in Europe. IWGO members also took part in an EU research project on *Diabrotica* (EU – Research Project QLRT-1999-1110: “The threat to maize production in the EU by the exotic corn rootworm pest *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera*: sustainable pest management approaches and ecological background”).

Additionally, *Elateridae* (wireworms) were a topic of discussion by several member countries. Subsequently, corn borer biology and host response were also studied. More recently biological control has been emphasized. Therefore, within the last several years, IWGO has increasingly become a working group on all maize pest problems.

Table 1. Meetings of the *Diabrotica* Subgroup 1995 - 2005

1995	I st IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Graz, Austria
1995	II nd IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Gödöllő; Hungary
1996	III rd IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Zagreb, Croatia
1997	IV th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Gödöllő, Hungary
1998	V th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Rogaska Slatina, Slovenia
1999	VI th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Paris, France
2000	VII th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Stuttgart, Germany
2001	VIII th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Venice, Italy
2002	IX th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Belgrade, Serbia
2004	X th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Engelberg, Switzerland
2005	XI th IWGO - <i>Diabrotica</i> Workshop in Bratislava, Slovak Republic

The IWGO group – initially affiliated with Global IOBC and established in 1979/80 as an official Global IOBC Working Group - has held 20 annual (until 1980) meetings in Europe, USA and Asia (Table 2). Several publications have been released and some are still partly available. Since 1981, the "IWGO - NEWSLETTER" has been published. This has been a way to link the members and to establish a permanent record of the activities of the working group, distribute information about the members, and to publish the abstracts of papers presented at the congresses. After several meetings, proceedings of the papers presented were issued. While the first IWGO meetings (until the late eighties) were attended by about 10 – 15 participants, the number of attendants increased steadily. Around 130 participants attended the IWGO Meeting in Venice (2001). The number of attendants at the IWGO-*Diabrotica* Subgroup meeting increased from 25 (1995, Graz) to 120 (2004, Engelberg).

Table 2. IWGO – Meetings 1968 – 2006

1968	Foundation of IWGO during the International Entomological Congress in Moscow by H.C. Chiang (USA) D. Hadzistevic (Yugoslavia) B. Dolinka & B.Nagy (Hungary), N. Shapiro (Soviet Union), A. Perju (Romania) and C. Kania (Poland). W.Faber (Austria), M.Hudon (Canada), P. Anglade (France), D. Mustea (Romania) and A. Monteagudo (Spain) joined the group later in the year. Prof. Huai C. Chiang 1 st elected president of IWGO
1969	I st meeting in Vienna, Austria
1970	II nd meeting in Zemun, Yugoslavia
1971	III rd meeting in Bordeaux, France
1972	IV th meeting in Martonvasar, Hungary
1973	V th meeting in Zagreb, Yugoslavia
1974	VI th meeting in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA
1975	VII th meeting in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), Soviet Union
1976	VIII th meeting in Madrid, Spain
1977	IX th meeting in Wroclaw, Poland
1978	X th meeting in Bergamo, Italy
1980	XI th meeting in Vienna, Austria
1982	XII th meeting in Pistany, CSSR
1984	XIII th meeting in Colmar, France
1986	XIV th meeting in Beijing, China
1989	XV th meeting in Varna, Bulgaria
1991	XVI th meeting in Martonvasar, Hungary
1993	XVII th meeting in Volos, Greece;
1995	XVIII th meeting in Turda, Romania
1997	XIX th meeting in Braga, Portugal
1999	XX th meeting in Adana, Turkey
2001	XXI th meeting in Venice, Italy
2006	XXII th meeting in Vienna, Austria

Leadership of and future perspectives of IWGO

Prof. Dr. H.C. Chiang (St. Paul, Minnesota, USA) was the first convenor of the group in 1968 and held this position until 1982. The group elected Dr. P. Anglade (Bordeaux, France) as the new president in 1982 and he served until 1993. Since 1994, Harald K. Berger (Vienna, Austria) has been the convenor of this international group. As the group expanded and the topics discussed and researched diversified, it became necessary to nominate co-convenors. Prof. Dr. Les Lewis (Iowa State University; USA) became co-convenor for a number of years and Prof. Dr. Rich Edwards (Purdue University, Lafayette) became co-convenor of the *Diabrotica* subgroup, which was established in 1996. After the retirement of Harald K. Berger in 2005, Dr. Ulrich Kuhlmann (Delemont, Switzerland) was elected unanimously as new

IWGO - convenor at the meeting of the *Diabrotica* Subgroup in Bratislava.

IWGO, which was one of the first Global-IOBC Working Groups, is now a well-established, large international working group dealing with all matters of maize pests and pest resistance. The group is open to all scientists with an interest in working within an international group. Since 2006 IWGO has its own website: www: <http://www.iwgo.org>.

IWGO publications

From 1980 – 2006: 27 Issues of „IWGO NEWSLETTER“ (Over 500 copies from each issue were distributed to scientists all over the world.). [published by H.K.Berger, Vienna]

- Dolinka, B. (Ed.), 1973. Report of the International Project on *Ostrinia nubilalis* Phase I; Results 1969 – 1970. Agric. Res. Inst. Hungarian Acad. of Sciences; Martonvasar; 168 p.
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- Mustea, D. (Ed.), 1980. Twelve Years Results (1969 - 1980) of IWGO issue of „Probleme de Protectia Plantelor“ 9 (2); Agricultural Research Station; Turda, Romania.
- Janda, J., (Ed.), 1984. Proceedings of the XIIth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; Proroda, Bratislava pre vyskuminy ustov kukurice v. Trnave; 146 p.
- Anglade, P. & C. Cortez (Eds.), 1986. Proceedings of the XIIIth Symposium of the International working Group on *Ostrinia*; Colmar - Bordeaux, France; 116 p.
- Zhou, D. (Ed.), 1986. Proceedings of the XIVth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; Beijing, Peoples Republic of China; 181 p.
- Georgiev, T. (Ed.), 1989. Proceedings of the XVth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; Technical University „A. Kanchev“; Rousse, Bulgaria; 172 p.
- Tsitsipis, J. (Ed.), 1993. Proceedings of the XVIth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; University of Thessalia; Volos, Greece; 72
- Mustea, D. (Ed.), 1993. Proceedings of the XVIIth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; Agricultural Research Station Turda, Romania; 133 p.
- Pego, E-S., (Ed.), 1997. Proceedings of the XVIIIth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; DRAED – NUMI; Braga, Portugal; 341 p.
- Kornosr, S., (Ed.), 1997. Proceedings of the XIXth Symposium of the International Working Group on *Ostrinia*; Cukurova University; Adana, Turkey; 197 p.
- Carollo, G., (Ed.), 2001. Proceeding of the XXIst IWGO Conference; Giorgio Carollo (Edit.) Padova, Legnaro – Padova; Italy; 437 p