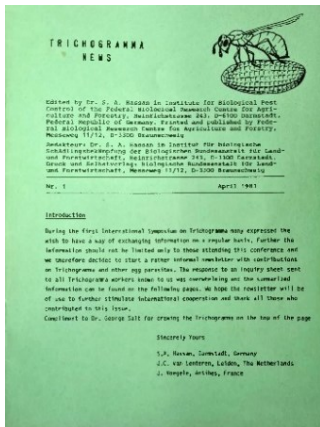


Remembering Sherif Hassan

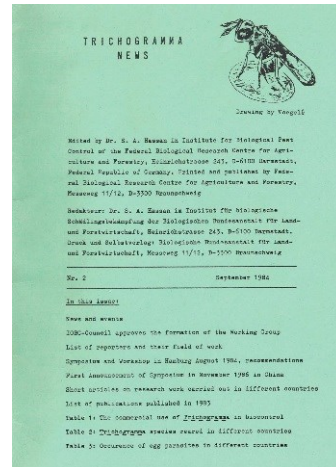
In April of last year, Sherif Hassan has left us. Sherif dedicated his life to biological control being the Scientific Director of the Institute for Biological Control in Darmstadt, and after his retirement, he continued a leading role in international academies. Sherif has left an indelible memory in many entomologists, plant protection people and agricultural scientists. Regarding to the Bulletin of Insectology he was in the editorial board since the first issue of the new series (2002). He always was ready to collaborate, preparing peer reviews mainly covering the topic on beneficial arthropods, such as predators and parasitoids. Here, I am reporting some sentences taken from the obituary prepared by Annette Herz, Heidrun Vogt and Johannes Jehle on: https://www.iobc-wprs.org/people/cv_hassan_sherif_obituary.html



Trichogramma News - first issue, 1983.

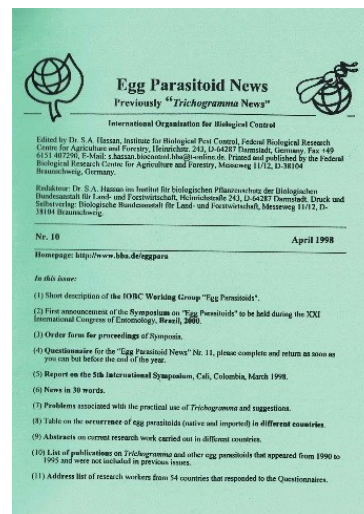
<<His mission was to explore and develop methods for mass rearing and application of important beneficial insects, such as the lacewing *Chrysoperla carnea*, various predatory mites and the most important parasitoid of the white fly, *Encarsia formosa*. His main focus, however, became the smallest of them all - the egg parasitoid *Trichogramma*. In collaboration with scientific colleagues, plant protection services and beneficial insect producers around the world Dr. Hassan established *Trichogramma* as the most successful beneficial insect in important field crops such as corn and sugar cane. In addition, in the 1980s and 1990s - also in close cooperation with players from science, authorities, and industry - he developed standard methods for testing plant protection products for their side effects on beneficial organisms. These methods are widely applied today and form an essential part of regulatory testing procedures for newly developed active ingredients and plant protection products. Dr. Sherif Hassan has written more than 200 scientific publications, several books and book chapters, and he was the founding editor of the "Egg Parasitoid News.">> ... <<Internationally, under the auspices of the IOBC-Global (International Organisation for Biological Control), he founded the working group "*Trichogramma* and other egg parasites" which brought together scientists through regularly organised conferences as well as the already mentioned "Egg Parasitoid News", connecting their activities in the best possible way. The working group "Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms" of the IOBC-West Palaearctic Regional Section, which he headed for many years, very successfully promoted the development of standard testing procedures and methods to evaluate possible side effects of plant protection products on beneficial organisms. This group coordinated international joint ring-testing programmes, validated test methods, and later used these methods to classify numerous plant protection products with regard to their possible side effects.>>

I thank very much the colleagues for their kindnesses to give me the permission to copy parts of their text.



Trichogramma News - second issue, 1984.

The first time that I met Sherif was at the XVII Int. Congress of Entomology, Hamburg, 1984, but his works and papers were well known several years before at our institution in Bologna. Some students went to Darmstadt to see the beneficial arthropods rearings, labs and facilities. In 1986 - at the 2nd Int. Symposium, Guangzhou (China) on *Trichogramma* and other egg parasites - it was another moment when I had the opportunity to talk with Sherif discussing the problems and difficulties on inundative releases of *Trichogramma maidis* (= *T. brassicae*) by hands in maize fields to *Ostrinia nubilalis* control. Later, for instance, we start to use ULM (ultra-light aircrafts). Nowadays, the inundative biological control, using beneficial arthropods produced in commercial insectaries, is applied with drones. Sherif would be very happy to know that also the biological control against *O. nubilalis* with *T. brassicae* is becoming more and more important and economically convenient, and safe for environment.



Egg Parasitoid News - new series 10th issue, 1998.