



**The 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the East Palearctic Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants, 6-11 June 2005, Budapest, Hungary.**

The 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly of the East Palearctic Regional Section of the International Organization for Biological Control of Noxious Animals and Plants took place on 6-11 June 2005 in Budapest, Hungary. Scientists and specialists attended this important international event from Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, and Ukraine. The Session of the General Assembly was welcomed by Ms. Follath, Deputy Secretary of State of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Hungary and Mr. J. van Lenteren, President of the Global Organization of the IOBC. The session was connected with a scientific meeting on “Biological control: achievements, problems and perspectives”.

During the last years many joint research activities and significant technological elaborations took place which allowed the East European region to be a leader in the application of biological preparations used for plant protection. The application of *Trichogramma* for many agricultural crops was among such successful elaborations. In spite of the fact that in the last years the application volumes with *Trichogramma* decreased, this application is one of the most important achievements in the world practice of plant protection. At present Ukraine is a world leader in the application of *Trichogramma*.

It should be mentioned that the possibilities of the biological method of plant protection in grain growing, gardening, hothouse market gardening have been used not fully. The specialists from Hungary, Bulgaria and Russia paid attention to many aspects of the practical use of such natural factors of pest control as parasitic and predatory *Arthropoda*, and pathogens of insects such as bacteria, viruses and fungi.

During the Session of the General Assembly all the countries, which took part in the meeting, presented scientific reports devoted to different aspects of the development of biological methods of plant protection. For example: control of the *Diabrotica virgifera virgifera* and fluctuation of these pests in Europe

(Baca F. – Serbia and Montenegro), forming an eco-friendly assortment of plant protection products in Russia (Dolzhenko V. I. from Russia), trees with genetically modified stability – the application possibilities in the forestry (Gninenko Yo. I. from Russia), population dynamics of the oak roller moth (*Tortrix viridana*) and its parasites in oak stands near Moscow (Golossova M. A., Semevski F. N. from Russia), theoretical aspects of a quarantine status of fruit plantings in Ukraine (Kletchkowskij Y. E. ), implications of convention on biological diversity for biological control programs (Lipa J. J. from Poland), improving the mechanization equipment for biological protection of plants (Lysov A. K. from Russia), parasitoid community structures of two invading blacklocust leafminers, *Parectopa robiniella* & *Phyllonorycter robiniella* in Hungary (Melika G. et al.), possibilities of using of nematophagous fungi for greenhouse pests control (Sosnowska D. and Fiedler Z. from Poland), the concept of ecological and toxicological assessment of the production of genetically modified insecticidal plants (Sokolov M. S. et al. from Russia), development of IPM in greenhouse sweet pepper based on biological pest control in Hungary (Toth F. et al.).

Reports and discussions during the Session covered many urgent problems. Many speakers paid attention to the fact that during the last years the practical use of biological methods of plant protection decreased in most member-countries of EPRS/IOBC. This is connected not only with some hardship that is typical for member-countries of the EPRS/IOBC but also with real economic problems. The point is that it is difficult for agricultural products produced with the use of environmentally appropriate technologies to compete with products produced with the application of pesticides.

In spite of this fact the East European countries have kept their leadership both in the practical use of biological methods and in the scientific maintenance of this up-to-date line of investigation.

The participants of the General Assembly paid attention to such current problem as the use of genetically modified plants in practice of agriculture and forestry. It is recognized that this development is an important and promising line in agriculture, and so it is necessary not only to develop its technological components but also to ensure appropriate ecological and even philosophical investigations.

Ms. T. Lomovskaya, Deputy Director of “Sibbiofarm” presented a detailed and informative report about present biological preparations produced on the basis of the entomopathogenic bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis*. This enterprise is an old and successful producer of lepidocide, which is widely used in Russia. The area of hundreds of thousands ha of agricultural and forest land is treated with this preparation annually.

Some specialists could not come to Budapest but they presented their papers to the Session of the General Assembly so all the participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with their work.

The papers presented to the General Assembly were published before as a pre-print. Their edition in the form of Proceedings of the General Assembly is scheduled.

All issues concerning the activities of the IOBC/EPRS during the period 2005-2009 were discussed.

The following new Working Groups were created:

1. Mechanization of mass rearing and application of beneficial insects. Dr J. Starchevsky from Ukraine was chosen to be the Chairman.
2. Biology and control of invasive species in forest and urban trees. Dr M. Glavendekich from Serbia and Montenegro was chosen to be the Chairman.
3. Role and place of biological control in forest high school system. Dr V. Lipatkina from Russia was chosen to be the Chairwoman.

During the General Assembly the election of a new governing body of the EPRS took place. Dr. Istvan Eke, a well-known Hungarian specialist in the field of plant protection was elected the President of the Section. Dr. Danuta Sosnowska (Institute of Plant Protection, Department of Biocontrol and Quarantine, Poland) and Dr. Vladimir Nadykta (Institute of Biocontrol, Krasnodar, Russia) were elected Vice-Presidents. Yury Gninenko (Russia) was elected the General Secretary. The newly elected Section Board includes representatives of Russia, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria and Armenia, Belaruss, Kazakhstan, Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine. The action program of the Section for the forthcoming 4 years was developed.

Besides the scientific work, the participants of the General Assembly had a wonderful opportunity to see the sights of Budapest and to visit the institute at Vitamor where they were informed about problems of practical use of biological preparations, and especially about pheromones and *Trichogramma* used in the growth of ecologically appropriate agricultural products.

Dr. Danuta Sosnowska (Institute of Plant Protection, Department of Biocontrol and Quarantine, Poland), Vice President IOBC/EPRS, Poznan, September 2005