Obituary

Professor Antonio Graniti, 1926-2019

Professor Antonio Graniti died in Rome, on 11 September 2019.

Antonio Graniti was born in Florence on 9 October 1926. In 1950 he graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Florence, and in 1956 he obtained the Libera Docenza of Plant Pathology, allowing him to teach this discipline in the University. From 1951 to 1966 he worked as Assistente Incaricato of Plant Pathology at the Universities of Sassari and Catania, and then at the University of Bari. In 1967, at the age of 41, he became Chair Professor in Plant Pathology at the University of Bari.

Antonio Graniti was initially trained in mycology and plant pathology, focusing on plant disease problems in agricultural crops in the southern and island regions of Italy. In 1956 he studied in Zurich, Switzerland, with Prof. Ernst Gäumann, who was a leader in development of the toxigenic theory of plant diseases. This began Prof. Graniti's interest in phytotoxins. Under the guidance of his mentor Prof. Antonio Ciccarone, he began to make significant contributions to the knowledge of diseases of olive, grapevine, citrus, almond, cereals and cypress, crops and plants that important in Mediterranean environments.

Prof. Graniti was a leader in the foundation of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union (MPU) and the MPU journal *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*. He strongly supported the principles that established the MPU, and worked diligently to organize meetings and promote *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*. His work assisted in the establishment/success of the journal and personal interactive knowledge exchange for plant pathology in Mediterranean countries. From 1960 to 1981 he was on the Editorial Board of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*, and from 1982 to 1992 he served as Co-Editor of the journal with Prof. Antonio Canova. For over 30 years, Prof. Graniti was, therefore, primarily responsible for production of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea*.

Prof. Graniti has held key roles in the University of Bari. He was Director of the Institute of Agricul-
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Antonio Graniti was a reserved person, who fully respected the prerogatives of his colleagues and friends. He was never a dominating personality, but always present for every need of his students and collaborators. He was a highly cultured person, elegant in manner, witty with strong intellect, and ability to focus on the future of phytopathology. Faithful to the guidance of Antonio Ciccarone, who approached old age with dignity and a lively mind, Prof. Antonio Graniti pursued the nurturing and advancement of knowledge until his death. His leadership and contributions to plant pathology leave a profound legacy.

Giuseppe Surico