

*This Supplementary Issue of Phytopathologia Mediterranea
is dedicated to the memory of Dr Luigi Chiarappa*



Dr Luigi Chiarappa, 1925–2010

Editors' note, and Dedication

This Supplement to volume 50 of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* contains original, peer reviewed research papers, prepared from presentations at the 7th International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases (IWGTD). This Workshop was held in Santa Cruz, Chile, 17–21 January 2010, and was organized by the International Council on Grapevine Trunk Diseases (ICGTD). The abstracts of the all papers presented at the workshop were published in *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* (2010) 49, 103–133. Publication of this Supplement has been financially assisted by the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP).

The first issue of this journal dedicated to grapevine trunk diseases followed the 1st IWGTD in 1999, and was published in 2000. The ICGTD was recognized as a Subject Matter Committee within the ISPP in 2001. A great deal of research has been done since then. This has also led to new views on the diseases and the names used to indicate them. Even in this issue more recent names and older names have been adopted or discussed by different authors, showing how active and continuously evolving the research in this field is.

Dr Luigi Chiarappa, the founder and inspiration of the ICGTD, passed away 1 year ago, after a long illness. Following up on a note by another Italian colleague, Lionello Petri, Luigi noticed the possible relevance of a symptom on grapevine hitherto neglected: black spots in the wood, caused by an undescribed *Cephalosporium* species. Later this spurred him to strongly encourage scientists involved in the study of grapevine trunk diseases to establish a research council to promote international collaboration and information exchange. This initiative was extremely successful, and the ICGTD continues to be a dynamic and very productive ISPP Subject Matter Committee.

Dr. Luigi Chiarappa

Dr Luigi Chiarappa was born in Rome, Italy in 1925. He received his degree in agriculture from the University of Florence in 1950. With his wife Nicla, he emigrated to the United States, where he was awarded a PhD in plant pathology from UC Davis in 1958. His thesis was on esca/black measles of grapevine. He carried out research on diseases of fruit tree crops in the USA, and in 1962 returned to Rome, Italy, where he worked for the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations. He was promoted to the Chief of the Plant Protection Service in FAO, promoting programs for selection of disease-resistant local cultivars, and setting up strategies for control of tropical diseases by coordinating scientists and farmers. In 2001, Luigi was awarded the UC Davis Award of Distinction by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. During his retirement Dr Chiarappa continued to advocate for collaboration among scientists and founded the International Council of Grapevine Trunk Diseases, becoming President of the Council. He participated in the first workshop of the Council in Siena in 1999. Since then, six further conferences on grapevine trunk diseases have been organized, with support from ISPP. These science colloquia have realized Dr Chiarappa's vision "to promote international research and getting people to talk to each other, with the aim to foster the exchange of information and ideas". Dr Chiarappa is survived by his wife, Nicla, his three daughters Victoria, Marina and Cynthia, and eight grandchildren. He passed away after a long illness on the 30th of September 2010.

International Council on Grapevine Trunk Diseases: a gift from Luigi Chiarappa

Lucie Morton
Viticulturist, Virginia, USA

The ICGTD is a gift to us, now the legacy, of Dr Luigi Chiarappa. He was a great scientist, a caring friend, and a man of conscience. He understood the hardships posed to human kind by the loss of plants to disease. This grape-oriented organization reflects his previous success with voluntary international co-operation to save coconut palm trees, so vital to the well-being of many for food and shelter. Luigi was also an astute politician. For example, he could see that US funding for palm research would be more forthcoming when the decorative trees around affluent swimming pools began to succumb. I never would have met Luigi if his PhD from UC Davis had been in coconuts, or perhaps, even any other disease besides esca of grapevine.

Dr John McGrew, a USDA grape breeder (for black rot resistance) gave me five boxes of grape pathology research literature being thrown out by a retiring strawberry breeder. This treasure trove of information contained papers and pamphlets going back to the late 1800's. In 1995, while trying to connect the black goo symptom to esca, I ran across Luigi's 1959 paper on Wood Decay in Grapevines with the following insight:

*"It appears probable then that *Cephalosporium* sp. may have some function in the decay process and eventually in the black measles syndrome. Further work should be devoted to an investigation of this possibility."*

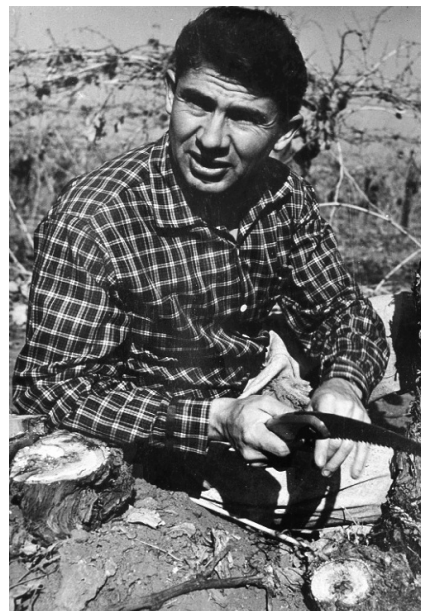
In a very lucky conversation with a colleague, I mentioned the Chiarappa paper. She said she'd seen in an alumni news notice that he had retired and moved back to Davis. In late summer 1995, a call to his home phone/fax went unanswered. Luigi had just left for 2 months in Italy. I sent a fax explaining why I was trying to contact him. On October 12, I got a call from a man with a heavy Italian accent. It was Luigi who said he would be happy to share his experience, and that I should expect a letter from him.

It was a cold, rainy night in January of 1996 when I met Luigi in person at his home for the first time. With great optimism that he was the key to unraveling the mystery of black goo, I arrived full of pictures and questions. He and his wife Nicky were friendly and businesslike. Noting that it had been nearly 40 years since he studied black measles, he said he had not seen the black goo symptom in his research but wished me well in my investigation. From that first meeting, I left deflated and depressed because Luigi said he could not give me further help.

In retirement, Luigi had many interests besides plant pathology, a strong family life, and thirty varieties of peaches in his yard. Still, he was very well organized and had maintained records from back into his graduate school days. He and Nicky were writing their autobiography. It was long enough after my January visit, that I did not at first recognize the very excited foreign voice on the phone. It was Luigi saying, "Lucie there was black goo in my research I just did not see it! You will be receiving some important pictures in the mail."

After that Luigi came partially out of retirement to further investigate what we now call Petri disease. He and Nicky were very hospitable, even when I had children in tow. A love of food and wine is a bonus for all of us working with grapes, and Luigi and Nicky were no exception.

*In 1997, Strauss Ferreira and Luigi gave a seminar in Napa Valley, where they discussed the link between *Phialophora* slow-dieback disease and black measles on grapevine. The two scientists together looked at cultures from rootstocks with black goo symptoms and confirmed that what we now call *Phaeomoniella chlamydospora*, was what they had respectively called *Phialophora* and *Cephalosporium*. It was in the fall of 1997 that Luigi began work to form the International Council of Grapevine Trunk Diseases. Working closely with his colleagues in Italy, he guided Council into existence. Since then, ICGTD members and participants from many countries have done a remarkable job and together constitute a fitting legacy to a great man.*



Luigi Chiarappa examining grapevine trunks when working on PhD studies on esca/black measles in Davis, California, USA