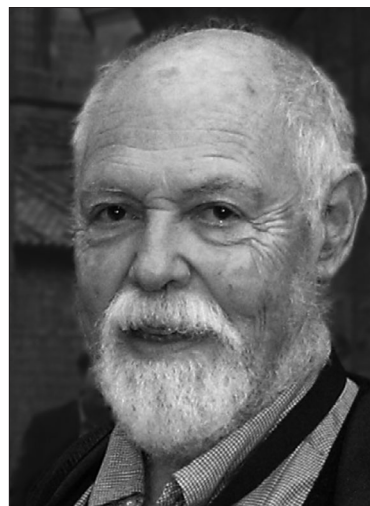


In Memoriam Ilan Paperna

Professor Emeritus Ilan Paperna, former Subject Editor of DAO, distinguished Israeli parasitologist and renowned authority on fish diseases, passed away on March 28, 2009. Ilan's prolific research career spanned 5 decades, during which he authored more than 300 book chapters, reviews, monographs and scientific papers—of which no less than 27 were published in DAO!

Ilan Paperna was born and raised in Tel Aviv. It was at the Hadassah Medical School of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem that he first became fascinated with the ingenuity of animal parasites and decided to devote his life to their study. He graduated in 1964 with MSc and PhD degrees in parasitology and then travelled to Africa, serving as Senior Research Officer in Ghana (1964–1968) and Uganda (1970–1972). After a two-year stint at the College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Williamsburg, USA, he returned to Israel, and in 1973 joined the H. Steinitz Marine Biology Laboratory of the Hebrew University in Eilat as resident scientist, soon after becoming director of the lab (1974–1977 and 1979–1980). It was during these years in Eilat that Ilan carried out his pioneering research that significantly advanced the field of diseases of cultured warm water marine fish. He rapidly achieved international recognition through his innovative studies, frequently presenting his findings and ideas at international meetings. His numerous scientific collaborations included Germany, France, Portugal, South Africa, USA, Australia, Singapore and Brazil. In addition, he carried out countless overseas consultations and assignments, travelling to virtually every corner of the earth.

In 1983, he was promoted to Associate Professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As supervisor and mentor, he inspired his many students with his extraordinary informal charm, enthusiasm, candor and generosity. What made him a gifted scientist was his innate inquisitiveness that could never quite be satisfied. No challenge was too big for Ilan, and he instinctively knew where to begin to unravel the big picture. With an extraordinary combination of insight and proficiency, he could instantly identify the fundamental essence and separate the significant from the meaningless. On the other hand, he could spend weeks delving into fine details when it was necessary. In recognition of his achievements, Ilan was awarded the esteemed Elson Dew Medal by the Parasitological



Professor Ilan Paperna (1937–2009)

Society of South Africa in 1978 for his outstanding contribution to fish parasitology.

In 1987, Ilan moved to the Department of Animal Sciences at the Faculty of Agriculture, Hebrew University of Jerusalem in Rehovot and was appointed Full Professor in 1990. Here he gradually shifted to studying blood parasites of reptiles, amphibians and migratory birds. He retired in 2006 but remained as active as always and continued to publish new results; a dozen in-prep manuscripts were arranged in neat folders on his desk when he died.

A walking encyclopedia and stimulating conversationalist, Ilan's colorful personality could leave no one indifferent. He spoke 7 languages, and his interests included literature, art, history, gourmet cooking and music—among others. He was a talented piano player, gifted sketch artist and avid gardener. In his backyard, he lovingly nurtured his world collection of rare bromeliads, keeping them in perfect condition in a small self-constructed greenhouse.

Ilan leaves behind many friends and colleagues; he will be sorely missed by those of us who had the privilege of knowing him.

Prof. Ariel Diamant*

National Center for Mariculture, Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Institute, Eilat, Israel

*Email: diamant@agri.huji.ac.il