

## Danièle MATILE

### Devoted to the Study of Scale Insects

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Some of us know her as Danièle Ferrero, her original name and a name she used for her early publications. Danièle married Loïc Matile, a dipterist of world renown, and she decided to change her name in publications to Danièle Matile-Ferrero. Her real name, of course, is Danièle Matile but no matter which name we know her by Danièle has now published 125 papers on scale insects, either solely as an author or as a co-author. She has also described 14 new genera and 66 new species, a great achievement. The Advisory Committee of the XIII International Symposium on Scale Insect Studies held at Sofia, Bulgaria, decided to honour Danièle Matile for all her work, and delegates surely agree with great pleasure this decision.

Danièle first started her working career in 1957 at the prestigious Institut Pasteur in Paris. Alfred Balachowsky, one of the foremost entomologists and biologists of the last century and world famous for his work on scale insects, was Head of the Laboratoire de Parasitologie végétale there. With Balachowsky as her mentor, Danièle soon learnt much about entomology and scale insects in particular. From 1962 to 1972 she was part of the board and co-author for the series *Traité d'Entomologie appliquée à l'Agriculture*, published in four volumes with 3025 pages and 1300 illustrations. She was also on the editorial board for the series *Faune*

de l'Europe et du Bassin Méditerranéen, published in eight volumes.

After Balachowsky became Director of the Entomology Department of the Natural History Museum in Paris, Danièle started there in 1964 to work on scale insects. She published her first paper on scale insects with Balachowsky in 1965 and there followed a succession of papers under their joint authorship. With growing knowledge and confidence, Danièle has continued to produce papers of high quality on scale insects, either in her own name or jointly with other authors who have sought her advice on numerous subjects pertaining to scale insects. Since 1978, Danièle has been in charge of the Sternorrhyncha section and has curated the collections of aphids, whiteflies and psyllids, in addition to the large collection of scale insects. She retired in 2004 but has been able to continue with her work, and going to the museum almost every working day. For many years, Danièle has been a member of the editorial board of the journal *Revue française d'Entomologie*. She has been a keen supporter of the journal and has helped to keep it viable for 30 years.

The scale insect collection comprises all the species described by Balachowsky and Danièle, and the collections of Jules Lichtenstein, Paul Marchal, Paul Vayssière, and more recently the important col-

lections of Raymond Mamet and Lucien Goux. The collection is maintained meticulously by Danièle and is studied by visitors from many parts of the world. She has been able to retrieve much of the dry material formed by these authors for future reference.

Danièle is also a good field entomologist and is an expert in collecting scale insects. She has travelled widely and has collected in New Caledonia, Central and West Africa, Sumatra, many parts of Europe and in the Peruvian Amazonia. Danièle has also visited many of the important scale insect collections in Europe. In 1968, she attended the XIII Congress of Entomology in Moscow where many coccidologists met her for the first time.

Outbreaks of injurious scale insects are becoming increasingly more frequent and important. Danièle has been responsible for identifying many of the species and has given advice. Her paper describing the cassava mealybug, *Phenacoccus manihoti* Matile Ferrero, is cited frequently. We are living in a period when the large international collections of scale insects in Paris and London, the United States National Collection now based in Maryland, and the collection of the Bohart Museum of Entomology at Davis, California, are without paid incumbents but are sometimes cared for by retired workers. At present, there is little hope that these posts will be filled. When outbreaks of scale insects occur or when

a species becomes important, there are questions to be answered. Who will prepare the specimens on microscope slides? Who will identify the specimens? If the species is new, who will describe it? Is the species confined to one host-plant or to many? What is the distribution of the species and where can natural enemies be located? Daniele has all the experience for each of these tasks, even in her retirement. There is often little recognition for this initial work before control of a species can be implemented. This is a fitting time to recognise all the work she has done, to thank her for all the advice she has given and for being the perfect host to her many visitors at the Museum in Paris and in the Aosta valley, Italy.

Danièle likes to relax at most weekends in the country where she lives near her family. She is a keen gardener and likes to see the results of her work in picking many varieties of fruit. She is an expert at making jams and chutnies. Anyone who has tasted Danièle's delicious cooking, will realise that if she had not taken up the profession of an entomologist, she might well have been successful in that profession instead.

We wish her well in her retirement and hope she will be able to continue with her work, which she is passionate about, for many years.

A full list of her publications can be found on ScaleNet.