

In Memoriam Professor Yigal Henis 1926–2010

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Yigal Henis, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Robert H. Smith Faculty of Agriculture, Food and Environment in Rehovot, Israel, passed away in 2010. He was born in Tel Aviv, Israel, in 1926 and studied at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem from 1949 to 1955, where he was awarded a M.Sc. in bacteriology and biochemistry and a Ph.D. degree in 1959. His academic teaching career began that year as a lecturer in bacteriology at the Hebrew University's Faculty of Agriculture in Rehovot. He was appointed head of the university's new Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology in 1969 and a professor in 1974.

Professor Henis's contributions to microbiology—especially soil microbiology, and plant pathology are numerous. His studies covered a variety of topics, including: physiology of fungal spore germination, morphogenesis and differentiation in fungi, biological control, biology of soilborne pathogens (*Sclerotium rolfsii*, *Rhizoctonia solani* and *Verticillium dahliae*, to name a few), interactions between soil pathogens and soil biota, soil suppressiveness, integrated control, bacterial diseases, microflora of stored products, degradation of pesticides and pollutants in soil,

bioremediation, nitrogen fixation with an emphasis on *Rhizobium* and *Azospirillum*, microbial ecology, cellulose degradation, edible mushrooms, water microbiology, and others. He pioneered the subject of environmental microbiology in agriculture in Israel. Yigal Henis had over 200 publications to his name, including articles (many in Phytopathology and Plant Disease), invited reviews and books.

Professor Henis was heavily involved in teaching both undergraduate and graduate courses, and established several new ones. He supervised numerous graduate students, many of whom went on to become leaders in research, extension, teaching and administration. Prof. Henis was a visiting professor or visiting scientist at universities and research institutions in the USA, Brazil and Europe, among other places. He served in many national and international positions, on several scientific committees and was the president of the Israeli Phytopathological Society. He served as Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Phytoparasitica* for many years.

Yigal Henis's contributions were highly recognized, both in Israel and internationally. He was a Fellow of the American Phytopathological Society, became an Honorary Associate of the Israeli Microbiological Society, and was awarded the Kedma Prize for Plant Protection and the Cohen Award for Plant Protection. Upon his retirement, his former students held a special Symposium in his honor. He had a warm personality and an open door policy for both students and colleagues, and was always ready to provide good advice, stimulate the formulation of new ideas and promote new concepts. He will be remembered fondly by us all.

*Jaacov Katan, Yitzhak Hadar, Ilan Chet and
Yaacov Okon*

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