

125th Anniversary of the Plant Protection Institute, Hungarian Academy of Sciences Budapest, Hungary



Records testify the regular occurrence of agricultural pest problems in Hungary and describe locust gradations and grassy weeds in vineyards since the beginning of the 11th century. With the aim to overcome phylloxera attack of grapevine in the country, scientific approach to fight and manage pests was first initiated in 1880 by the establishment of the State Phylloxera Research Station. The Station was later reorganized and fused with another research station devoted to seed testing, plant physiology and pathology. From these two, plus the Plant Biochemistry Laboratory, the Plant Protection Institute (PPI) was initiated in 1932 and it is now under the aegis of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (HAS).

Today PPI is a grant-aided, non-profit member institution of the research network of the HAS since 1982, devoted entirely to plant protection research covering all aspects of this discipline, e.g., biology of pathogens, pests and weeds, physiology and biochemistry of plant resistance to diseases and abiotic stress factors, interactions between pathogens or pests and their natural antagonists and the potential of biocontrol, and the development of environmentally safe and sound pest control methods and strategies. As one of the member institutes of the HAS, PPI's role is primarily in basic research but with links to applied research as taking part in the developing of new control strategies for both agricultural and horticultural crops.

The Institute situated in Budapest and its staff numbers 106 employees including 54 scientific workers. Research carried out at the Institute is based on the approach of the European Union that gives high priority to environmental nature conservation and landscape protection issues. This works at the Institute connect basic and applied fields with technology development and aims at the introduction into everyday practice environmentally friendly integrated plant protection methods.

Departments of the Plant Protection Institute:

Department of Plant Pathology, Department of Pathophysiology, Department of Biotechnology, Department of Plant Protection Zoology, Department of Ecotoxicology and Environmental Analysis, Department of Pesticide Chemistry.

In this issue of *Acta Phytopathologica et Entomologica Hungarica*, different research groups summarize their recent results on their particular field of interest and some scientists publish original results of their scientific achievements.