

## **Preface: In memory of Mark Jervis**

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Our highly respected colleague, and great friend, Dr. Mark A. Jervis died unexpectedly on Tuesday, 11 March 2014. Immediately following the tide of messages of shock, sadness, and condolences passed between his friends and colleagues was a second tide suggesting that it would be fitting to commemorate Mark's life and work in a special issue of a journal covering entomology, ecology, and evolution, and also to hold a memorial at a symposium. The latter took place at the 4th International Entomophagous Insects Conference (Torre del Mar, Málaga, Spain), in October 2015, in the form of an oral presentation by one of us (IH), attended by around 100 parasitoid biologists and entomologists, many of whom had known Mark and his work well. More than one journal was suggested for the Special Issue, and a number would have been fitting, but it rapidly became clear that *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* would be an ideal choice. Not least because Mark served from 1 January 2004 until the time of his death as a member of the Editorial Board, and also, at least 24 times, as a reviewer of manuscripts submitted to this journal, declining to review on only one occasion. This latter statement is, in itself, a telling indication of his dedication to the subject and his willingness to be of scientific assistance, especially when one considers that he was also working as the Editor of the *International Journal of Pest Management*. Records at *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* further show that his average time to return a review was 9 days only and his rating as a referee (a score given on the basis of scientific quality and timeliness by the Associate Editor when a review is returned) was an extremely impressive 3.88, given the maximum possible score of 4. Mark also published two of his own papers in this journal: McEwen et al. (1994) and Tibbles et al. (2005).

We are very grateful to Steph Menken, as Editor-in-Chief, for readily agreeing to our proposal to co-edit this memorial special issue. We also thank Marianne van der Peijl, Hefin Jones, Carlos Bernstein, and Jacques van

Alphen for their roles in helping to crystalize our plans at that stage. We compiled a list of Mark's collaborators, colleagues and academic friends who we thought might wish to contribute. Our criteria were broad: contributions were invited with subject matter that related to Mark's own research, directly or indirectly, or those that were authored by those who knew him, provided that the subject matter fell within the remit of the journal and was the sort of work that he would have found interesting. Not surprisingly, many suggested contributions ended up fulfilling all of these criteria. There were many very willing contributors and, as word spread, more were added to the list. Over the following months several intended contributors were forced to withdraw due to pressures from other duties. We nonetheless thank them for their good intentions and we are sure that Mark, of all people, would have completely understood that at many institutions scientists often do not have much time available to write-up their science. Despite these withdrawals the Special Issue that has emerged is packed with a plethora of studies that celebrate and build on Mark's research output.

After an obituary provided by Neil Kidd, revised and reprinted from *Antenna* thanks to permission from the Royal Entomological Society, there are two very different sets of personal reflections, on entomology in general and then on parasitoid research in particular. The first, by Hugh Loxdale, is a hopeful lament of the diminishing number of entomologists and a call for better resourcing for this important discipline. We are pleased to include this because Mark had concerns for the direction of travel of the academic word, valuing scholarship and woeful at the perceptible creep of what he termed philistinism. The second, by Charles Godfray, weaves a fascinating, informed, and apposite narrative through the state of parasitoid research and how it has developed during the decades of Mark's career. The remainder of the special issue comprises more typical journal papers, beginning with a number of comparative studies, covering such topics as nutritional ecology and fecundity, and then moving on to more behaviourally oriented studies before culminating in a paper co-authored by Peter Ferns and by Mark himself.

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**Figure 1** Mark Jervis (top right) at a parasitoid meeting in Leiden, The Netherlands, 26–28 November 2006. Other parasitoid biologists present were (top row, from left): Carlos Bernstein, Thomas Hoffmeister, Patsy Haccou, Eric Wajnberg, and Stefano Colazza; (seated, from left): Jacques van Alphen, Lia Hemerik, and Ian Hardy (Photographer unknown).

To us, Mark was a very special person. As a scientist he made us think about insect nutrition and about the related topic of how and when parasitoids develop the eggs that they will later lay. This is evidenced by (at the time of writing) the 442 citations of his review paper on host-feeding strategies (Jervis & Kidd, 1986), 272 of his paper on flower-visiting (Jervis et al., 1993), and 266 of his insightful work developing the ovigeny index (Jervis et al., 2001), and by the fact that citations to his published body of work reached 230 in the year 2012 alone. Mark had a healthy scepticism for such figures, stressing the content of any work over its associated metrics, but even he would agree that citation correlates to quality and strongly indicates valuable contributions. Another of Mark's lasting achievements was to bring together conceptual and methodological issues into a research-level text book on insects as natural enemies (Jervis & Kidd, 1996) which was updated and expanded around a decade later (Jervis, 2005). The editions of this book continue to provide a major resource for entomologists studying predators and parasitoids and are sure to do so for years to come.

As a friend, Mark was great fun to be around and we always learnt so much from talking to him. He was extremely knowledgeable on a wide range of topics, valuing music almost as much as he valued science, but neither ranked above his love and regard for his family, with Julia, George, and William all being a frequent topic of his conversation. We both shared with Mark an enthusiasm for blues music and we have jammed with each other and with Mark but never, sadly, managed to get the opportunity to jam as a trio.

Finally, we thank everyone who has helped us prepare this Special Issue, whether as a contributor, intended contributor, reviewer, or a journal staff member. We have both served as Associate Editors of *Entomologia Experi-*

*mentalis et Applicata* for many years but for one of us (IH) this Special Issue represents the final contribution in this role and we thank the journal for this privilege and, especially, for publishing this Special Issue. We dedicate this memorial issue to Mark, and to his family, and thank him for all his interactions with us scientifically and beyond. The picture (Figure 1) shows him at his scientific best, among colleagues, who were also his great friends, discussing research on the life histories of parasitoid wasps.

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