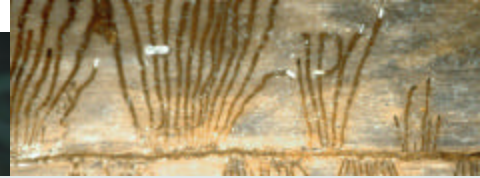
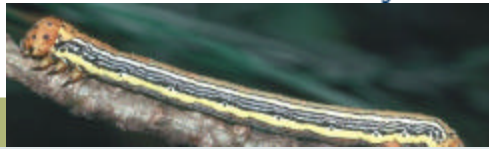




International Union of Forest Research Organizations



Special Newsletter: IUFRO Research Group 7.03.00, “Entomology”

(Coordinator: Andrew Liebhold, US; Deputies:
Rene Alfaro, Canada; Alain Roques, France)

December, 2008



Special Edition: Obituary Werner Baltensweiler, 1926-2008



Werner Baltensweiler measuring larch needle length near Zuoz, Switzerland, September, 2002

We recently learned that Dr. Werner Baltensweiler of Switzerland died December 7th of this year. Baltensweiler was probably the most influential forest entomologist of the 20th century. He devoted his career to studying a single insect species, the larch budmoth (*Zieraphera diniana*) which episodically defoliates portions of the European Alps. In conjunction with a diverse group of collaborators, Baltensweiler documented periodic population oscillations and demonstrated the importance of both host tree responses to defoliation as well as the importance of dispersal in the population dynamics of this insect. This work entailed both immense field sampling efforts as well as pioneering applications of statistical techniques. Baltensweiler's research served as an

excellent model system that set the stage for perhaps all subsequent research on forest insect population dynamics.

Baltensweiler also played an important role in fostering international cooperation among forest entomologists around the world. In 1967, he and George Varley formed the first International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO) working group focusing on forest insects. These and subsequent efforts with IUFRO lead to important advances in the development of basic theory on the population dynamics of forest insects. It also initiated important new forums for international scientific communication. Initially these IUFRO efforts facilitated important communication between European and North American entomologist and subsequently sparked new avenues for collaboration between scientists in former Soviet-dominated countries and the west.

For those of us who knew Werner as a friend, his passing leaves a huge void. This was a man that was so enthusiastically committed to science that he continued to collect data, attend conferences and write papers even into his 80's. His sharp wit was something that both stimulated scientific creativity as well as intense comradery. He also was a man who knew how to have fun. His high spirits were infectious and for those of us that were lucky enough to spend time with him, our lives became more meaningful from our friendship. Werner was an exceptional individual who will be missed by many.

-Andrew Liebhold

Abbreviated Biographical Timeline of Werner Baltensweiler:

- 1926: Born 28.Nov. 1926 Mollis, Kt.Glarus Switzerland
- 1946 – 1951: Degree in forest engineering, Dept., Forestry, Swiss Institute of Technology, Zürich, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zürich.
- 1952 – 1954: Forest inventory in Rocky Mountains; research on the regeneration of lodgepole pine from slash, Canadian Federal Forest Service, Calgary.
- 1954 – 1958: PhD degree (sc. Nat.), “Studies of the complex of the larch bud moth parasitoids” ETH Zürich, Institute of Entomology
- 1958 – 1991: lecturer in insect ecology, ETH Zürich, Institute of Entomology, and management of field station on larch bud moth research, Zuoz
- 1963: First participation in a IUFRO working Party - Meeting in Ljubljana
- 1967: Founded IUFRO Working Party 'Population Dynamics of Forest Insects'; Meeting in Antibes, 25.-29.09.1967, Prof.G.Varley, chairman, WBaltensweiler elected as Secretary. Subsequent meetings every 2 years
- 1976: XVI IUFRO World Congress Oslo, S2.07.06 Deputy Subject Group Leader, subsequent meetings annually
- 1982: XVII IUFRO World Congress Kyoto, S 2.07.00 Subject Group Leader
- 1986 – 1990: XVIII IUFRO World Congress Ljubljana, Division 2 Forest Plants and Forest Protection, Deputy Divisional Coordinator
- 1987: chairman, IUFRO Task Force on Air Pollution
- 1990: XIX IUFRO World Congress Montreal – resigned as IUFRO officer
- 1991: retired from ETH
- 1992: granted IUFRO Distinguished Service Award, IUFRO Congress, Berlin
- 2007: IUFRO working group meeting in Vienna, received George Varley Award for Achievement in Forest Insect Ecology



IUFRO Discussion Group on Population Dynamics
Antibes/Montmirail, France. 25.-30.September 1967

Picture of participants (left to right)

- | | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 1 | A.Pfeffer | Prof.Dr. University of Prague, PRAHA CSSR |
| 2 | P.Jourdeuil | Director Station de Recherches de Lutte Biologique et de Zoologie Agricole, ANTIBES France |
| 3 | E.Kangas | Prof.Dr. Institute for the Agricultural and Forest Zoology. HELSINKI Finland |
| 4 | Mrs. Kangas | |
| 5 | W.Baltensweiler | Dr. Inst.of Entomology, ETH, ZÜRICH Switzerland |
| 6 | Mrs.Schwerdtfeger | |
| 7 | F.Schwerdtfeger | Prof.Dr. Niedersächsische Forstl. Versuchsanstalt, GÖTTINGEN Germany |
| 8 | Mrs.Varley | |
| 9 | G.Varley | Prof. Dr. Hope Dept. of Zoology, University, OXFORD Great Britain |
| 10 | W.E.Waters | Dr. Chief, USDA Forest Insect and Disease Laboratory, HAMDEN,Conn. USA |
| 11 | E.Biliotti | Chef Dept. Zoologie Agricole, VERSAILLES, France |
| 12 | H.Wilbert | Dr. Inst.Plantpathology, GÖTTINGEN Germany |
| 13 | A.D.Voute | Dr. Inst.voor Toegpast Biologisch Onderzoek, ARNHEM Netherland |
| 14 | V.Butovitsch | Prof.Dr. Skogshögskolan, STOCKHOLM, Sweden |
| 15 | Mrs.Butovitsch | |
| 16 | C.S.Holling | Dr. Forest Res. Laboratory, VICTORIA, B.C, Canada |
| 17 | J.H.Franz | Dr. Inst.Biologische Schädlingsbekämpfung, DARMSTADT, Germany |