

## COMMEMORAZIONE

### IN MEMORY OF HENRY L.G. STROYAN (1921-2018)<sup>1</sup>

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Henry Lindsay Gray Stroyan, entomologist, was borne in Derby, England on January 9, 1921 and passed away in Harpenden, England on October 5, 2018. Henry grew up in Derby where he completed high school. After graduating, he enrolled at Cambridge University pursuing a Bachelor of Sciences degree in Natural Sciences, with a major in Zoology. In 1942, he earned his degree with Honour and was awarded the Frank Smart Price for Zoology.

Soon after, he enlisted in the Royal British Army and was posted in India where he served during the World War II (1942-1946) in the capacity of entomologist officer. He was assigned to the protection of stored food supply from ravaging insects, at first for the British and, subsequently, the Indian Army. In these years, Henry had the opportunity to continue by proxy his studies for a Master Sciences degree in Entomology that he obtained from the University of Cambridge in 1946, when he returned to Great Britain from India.

After graduation, he was awarded, in 1947, a three-year research grant by the British Agricultural Research Council (ARC) to study aphid taxonomy and biology at the University of Cambridge. The following year he attended, as a delegate of this University, the Eight International Congress of Entomology in Stockholm where he presented his first aphid investigation, concerning the 'Identity of *Aphis tanaceti* L. 1758', that he re-named *Metopeurum fuscoviride* nom. nov. On that occasion, Henry met Dick Hille Ris Lambers, with whom he started a life-long friendship and professional relationship. They travelled in Italy together and jointly visited (April 1955) the Natural History Museum Giacomo Doria in Genoa and the Institute of Zoology – University of Parma, in Parma to study the



Fig. 1 – Dr. Henry L.G. Stroyan, here aged 78.

aphid collections of P. M. Ferrari and G. Passerini, respectively. Here, Henry and Dick made microscopic preparations from both collections in spirits and revised the taxonomic status of some early described species by the two Italian aphidologists.

Henry had also the opportunity to examine as well (1969) other Italian aphids in a few slides from Del Guercio collection that he received from his friend and colleague Minos Martelli, University of Milan. These morphological studies resulted in the correct identification and nomenclatural assessment of species belonging to the genera *Cavariella* and *Coloradoa*, respectively.

In 1951, his three-year grant was extended by the ARC for two additional years during which he continued his work on aphid taxonomy in the capacity of Senior Scientific Officer. In 1952, Henry transferred to the British Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF) working at

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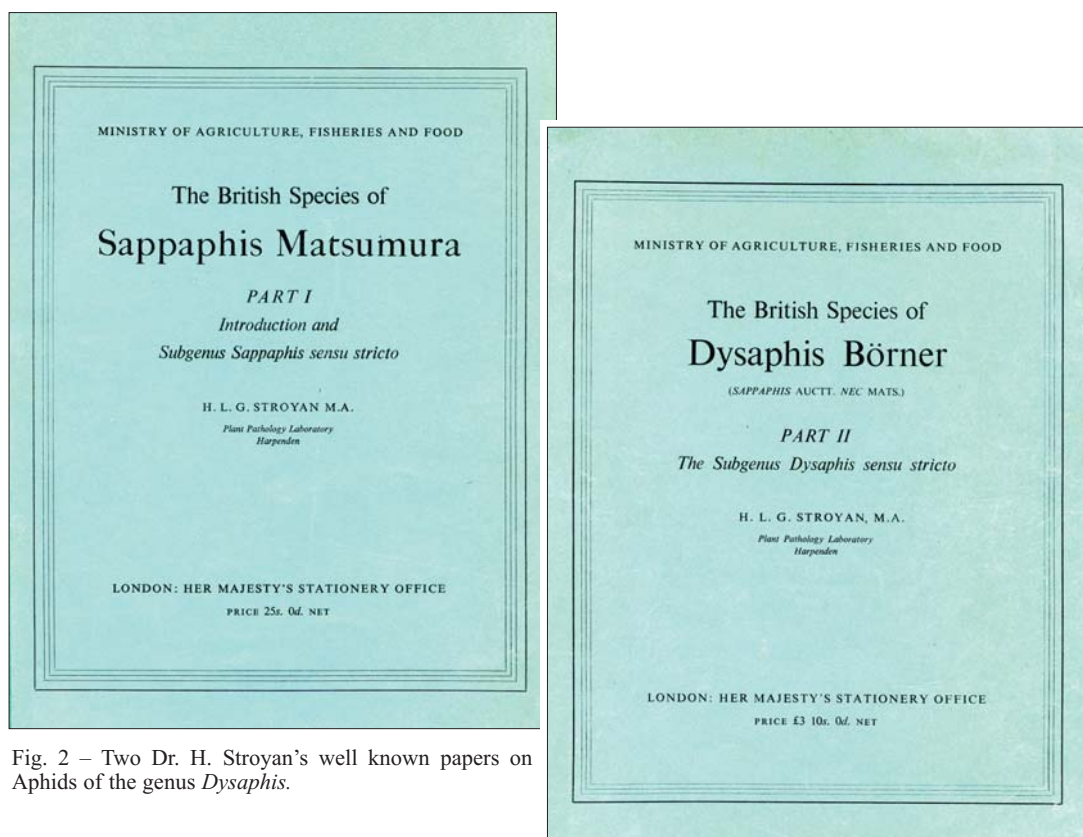


Fig. 2 – Two Dr. H. Stroyan’s well known papers on Aphids of the genus *Dysaphis*.

the Plant Pathology Laboratory in Harpenden (Herts.) as Principal Scientific Officer (1957). He was then promoted for special merit to Senior Principal Scientific Officer in 1965.

During these years, he accepted an invitation from the European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization (EPPO) to undertake an investigation on the occurrence and epidemiology of the citrus Tristeza virus in Israel. This project included a wide survey of aphid vectors of this virus in the Mediterranean Basin

to verify the possible presence of *Toxoptera citricidus*, the most efficient vector among these aphids.

In the summer of 1966, he conducted taxonomical studies of aphids in the United States in cooperation with Clyde F. Smith, North Carolina State University in Raleigh, using funds from a Kellogg Fellowship.

The large production of excellent entomological publications allowed Henry to earn a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Entomology that was conferred to him, in 1973, by the University of Cambridge under Special



Fig. 3 – Aphidologists attending the 1<sup>st</sup> International Symposium on Aphids held at Jablonna (Poland) on 5-11 April 1981; Dr. H. Stroyan is the third from right on the first row (courtesy of M. Kanturski).

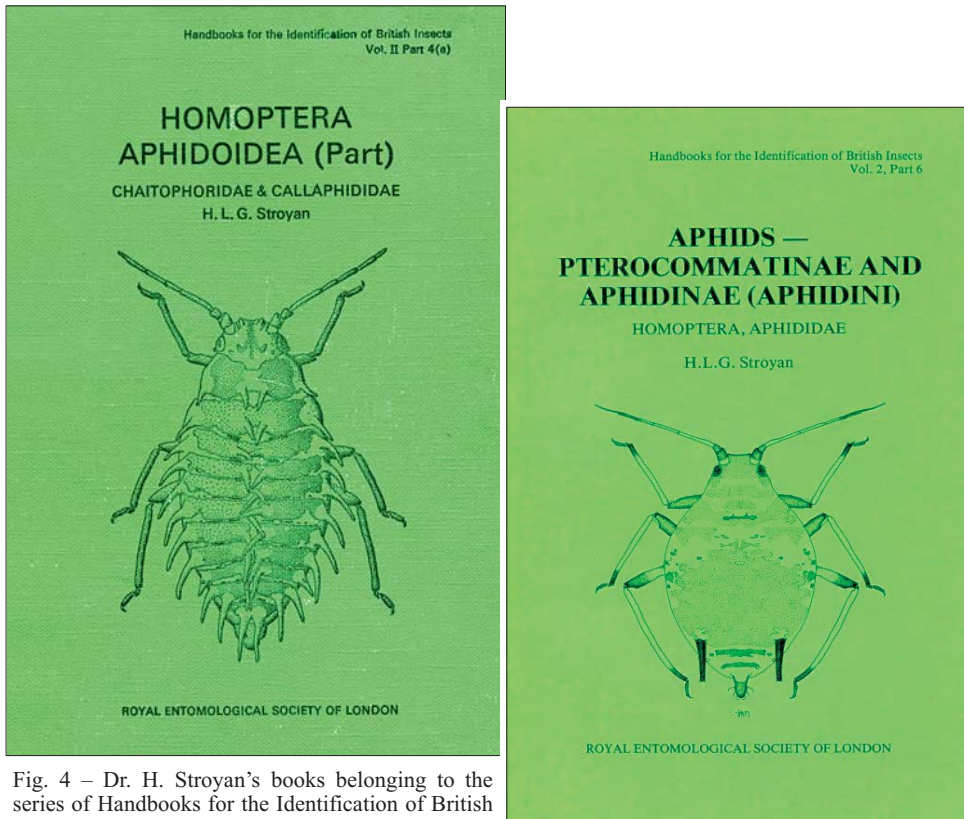


Fig. 4 – Dr. H. Stroyan’s books belonging to the series of Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects.

Regulations and based on the submission of published and peer reviewed scientific articles rather than a thesis.

During his activity at the Harpenden Laboratory and for many years, Henry was validly assisted in his work by Robert N.B. Prior and Chris Furk, who have published excellent research works, conducted under his supervision, on different aspects of aphid taxonomy and/or biology, including the study of resistance of damaging arthropods to insecticides.

In 1982 Henry retired officially from his post at MAFF and received permission to work for a further year to complete his second aphid handbook on Pterocommatinae & Aphidini, published by the Royal Entomological Society (London) in 1984.

He was also a prolific writer. His publications (one hundred altogether) span over a period of more than fifty years, from 1946 to 1999. Most of them are devoted to ovoviviparous aphids (Aphididae), except for a small group of them, published at the beginning of his scientific career, on different insect groups or other arthropods (such as Lepidoptera, Neuroptera, Heteroptera and Aracnidae).

Henry contributed to the knowledge of world aphid fauna and particularly that of Britain, describing a total of 53 new aphid taxa of specific or subspecific rank and belonging to different subfamily groups. Only five of them are regarded as synonyms now, all others are valid binomial taxa. Most of them, of course, were collected in Britain, but not a few come from Italy or other

countries (USA, Iceland, India, Pakistan and others). He named two new genera, *Pterasthenia*, from E Africa and *Gharesia*, from NW Himalayas and two subgenera, *Sciomyzus* and *Neokakimia*. The genus *Pterasthenia* became the type genus of the small subfamily Pterastheniinae that was established by Remaudière & Quednau and represents with another genus sub-Saharan aphid species living on Fabaceae plants. The subgenus *Sciomyzus* is a valid subgenus of *Myzus*, whereas *Neokakimia* is today quoted as a synonym of the subgenus *Kakimia*.

Henry Stroyan is certainly well known among aphidologists for his taxonomic and biological investigation on the Macrosiphini genus *Dysaphis*. Among about a dozen of his papers dealing within that aphid Palaearctic group, the most relevant appear the two concerning the ‘Revision of British Species’ published in 1957 and 1963, respectively, which were the major contributions that awarded him the Ph.D. Each of the two monographic papers are enriched with morphological illustrations of the species and detailed biological and morphometric data, covering a wide range of morphological variations and allowing, as much as possible, a correct identification of each species. A further large monographic contribution on the same aphid genus was prepared, subsequently, by Henry, upon invitation of his Polish friend Henryk Szelegiewicz, and was a major topic of his talk at the 1st Aphidological Symposium held at Jabłonna, near Warsaw, in 1981.



Fig. 5 – Dr. H. Stroyan with his wife (at the head of the table) and other friends to a convivial dinner, kindly offered by Binazzi's family, while he was invited as lecturer (November 1999) by the Italian Academy of Entomology in Florence (courtesy of A. Binazzi)

Undoubtedly worth of mention is a series of eight Henry's papers dealing within the British aphid fauna, in addition to the Aphididae checklist (2nd ed.) published in 1964. On that group of publications, Roger L. Blackman in the 'Acknowledgements' to his book on British Macrosiphini aphids (Handbk Ident. Br. Insects, Vol.2, Part 7, R. Ent. Soc. London, 2010) wrote: "... by far the greatest contribution to knowledge of the British aphid fauna has been made by Henry Stroyan ...", and: "Stroyan's work and publications not only almost doubled the number of species on the British list but provided much additional information on life cycles and host-plant relationships". On the same topic, Henry gave in addition an effective contribution to the series of Handbooks for the Identification of British Insects, producing the two monographs on 'Chaitophorinae & Callaphidinae' (1977) and 'Pterocommatinae & Aphidinae – Aphidini' (1984), providing precise hand-made drawings for each of the taxa studied. Here of great taxonomic relevance is the descriptive outline of the 92 *Aphis* species studied; in fact, for each one of them detailed biological and morphometric data are reported, in order to help the user to overcome the difficulty in identifying species in this aphid group.

Other remarkable papers Henry wrote include the 'Biology of aphids' (co-authored with J.S. Kennedy in 1959); the 'British species of *Pemphigus*' (1964); 'The life cycle of *Aphis tremulae* L.' (1975), with a key to British Pemphiginae genera; the 'Revisionary notes on genus *Metopolophium*' (1982) and 'Un *Tamalia* nouveau de Californie' (co-authored with G. Remaudière in 1984) that contains a detailed account of Tamaliinae and taxonomic related groups.

The last of Henry's papers, entitled 'Tribulations of

an aphid taxonomist', was presented in 1999 at the Italian Academy of Entomology (Florence). In this talk, Henry elucidated "the biological strategies enabling aphids to explore and survive the variation of their environment" and pointed out that these phenotypic morphological variations "can impose limits on the confidence with which taxonomists can interpret morphological data derived from field collections of critical taxa". Likely, it may indeed represent the conclusion of a life spent in the study of this surprising group of insects.

Henry was recognized as a leading taxonomist and was recipient of many honours. He was a Fellow of both the R. Entomological Society (1947), and the Linnean Society of London (1954), and Honorary Member of the Italian Academy of Entomology in Florence (1988). Henry was involved in the activities of professional entomological societies. He attended, as a key speaker, several international entomological meetings, and organized jointly with T. Clay and R.W. Crosskey (British Museum – Natural History) the session on Systematics and Phylogeny during the XII Int. Congress of Entomology in London, in 1964. He also acted as a Vice-President of the Royal Entomological Society for the year 1966-67 and served as Honorary Secretary of this society in 1968-74.

Soon after his retirement, Henry offered his quite large aphid collection to the Natural History Museum (London), where it was added to the very rich collection already kept up at the Museum to be used by scientists as a source of voucher specimens for taxonomical studies. He also provided the writer of this tribute with his bibliographical collection on aphids, which is now kept at the Department of Agriculture, section of

Entomology, University of Catania, Italy, as a valuable source of aphid literature at hand available, and otherwise even difficult to find.

Henry was a perfect gentleman and very likeable and generous person, extremely attached to his family. The writer met Henry the first time in May 1975, during a six months' period spent under his supervision at the MAFF Plant Pathology Laboratory of Harpenden (Hertfordshire) and using grant funds provided by the Italian National Research Council (CNR) to study bio-systematics of aphids. This grant was subsequently renewed for additional four months to be spent during the summer of 1978. These initial studies resulted in a long lasting scientific cooperation and personal friendship with the cooperative publications of a faunistic and taxonomic paper on the aphid fauna of Sicily. Since that time, a never broken series of mail correspondence and family visits in Harpenden was established. These social visits included Henry's wife Kay, before she passed away a few years before him, and the writer's wife Dora. During the last of these visits in September 2018, Henry was in excellent health for his age. Complications from a hip fracture occurred in October 2018 caused his unexpected demise.

Henry's death is a true loss for all the aphidologists. He was a very good friend and as well as a master of life and science to the writer.

Henry is survived by his two sons Alasdair and Rory, daughter Sarah, and grandchildren Angus and Gemma.

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