

Yehouda Levy
(1949-1996)
IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Yehouda Levy, Head of the Department of Life Sciences at Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel, succumbed suddenly to cardiac arrest on July 18, 1996, at the age of 46. His untimely death was a heavy blow to his family and came as a severe shock to his many friends. Yehouda is survived by his wife and seven children.

Yehouda Levy was born in Fez, Spanish Morocco, into a well-known religious Zionist family. He was brought to Israel as a child and attended high school in Bat Yam and a yeshiva at Kefar Haro'e, followed by service in the Israel Defence Forces. Yehouda commenced his studies at Bar Ilan University in 1971, completed the B.Sc. in 1974 and obtained the M.Sc. degree in Biology in 1976 with a thesis on 'Primary production of algae in loess soil crusts of the Israeli Negev', under the guidance of the undersigned. In 1979 he received the Ph.D. degree with a thesis on 'The epidemiology of northern leaf blight of corn incited by *Exserohilum (Helminthosporium) turcicum*., also under the guidance of the undersigned. After concluding post-doctoral studies (1980-81) with Prof. Kurt Leonard at the Dept. of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, he returned to Israel and was appointed lecturer at Bar-Ilan. In 1992 he was promoted to Associate Professor and before his demise he was in the process of being promoted to full professor.

His fields of interest and his research studies were manifold: Diseases of sweet corn in cooperation with researchers in the U.S.A. and Nigeria, supported by funds from Germany; characterization of races of *E. Turcicum* and finding of resistance genes for this disease. He cooperated with the undersigned in studies of the chemical control of *Phytophthora infestans* in potatoes, especially by synergistic mixtures of fungicides. He was a major contributor to the understanding of the influence of the phenomenon of synergism on selection processes exerted by one component of a fungicidal mixture. In elegant, sophisticated field trials he proved that the forecast based on his models proved strikingly accurate in nature.

During recent years he studied with his students and co-workers the characterization of the genetic polymorphism of *Fusarium moniliforme* in corn and investigated the physiological changes occurring in resistant and susceptible plants in the presence of the pathogen. In cooperation with a post-doctorant from China (Dr. K. Huang) and with Dr. R. Perel-Treves, he dealt with the genetic characterization of brassica black leaf spot, *Altemaria brassicicola*. All in all, Dr. Levy published about 60 research papers in highly respected scientific journals.

Dr. Levy was not only an outstanding scientist but also a true, warm friend. He was in charge of the Department of Life Sciences (46 professors and lecturers) at Bar-Ilan University during the last three years of his life, during which period the Department developed significantly.

Yehouda was an endearing person, a warm family man, and much beloved, mild-mannered in his contact with others, and with all this, extremely polite. Due to his pleasant character he had many friends, both in this country and abroad. With his demise we mourn an excellent scientist and a dear, beloved friend; it is thus that we shall remember him.