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INTRODUCTION

This is a special issue of the "Mitteilungen der Schweizerischen Entomologischen Gesellschaft" containing the papers read at the First Swiss Symposium on Juvenile Hormones held in Basle on the 16th and 17th October 1970 on the occasion of the 150th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Academy of Sciences.

In past years our society has from time to time selected themes of special interest for their regular meetings. In addition, a symposium on insect collecting and methods of trapping was held during the 1967 autumn meeting in Schaffhausen. Because of the success of these events it was felt that a special topic on biological and integrated insect control would be appropriate for the Annual Meeting of the Swiss Entomological Society in March 1970, which was generously supported by the Director and scientific staff of the Commonwealth Institute of Biological Control. The well-attended meeting in Delémont, where several well-known Swiss experts read papers on the subject, indicated that another similar meeting would be welcomed by many members of our society. It was decided, therefore, that a symposium on insect juvenile hormones would be suitable, keeping in mind that "third generation insecticides" have been increasingly in the limelight during the last few years. Since the meeting in Prague in 1966 considerable progress has been made, especially in the field of chemistry and biological screening.

Thanks to the generous support of leading chemical firms in Switzerland and abroad it was possible to invite world experts on juvenile hormone research, in both the chemical and biological field. The lecturers at the First Swiss Symposium on Juvenile Hormones have once again shown that this subject involves a close correlation between organic chemistry, insect physiology and applied entomology.

We note, with considerable satisfaction, that many scientists who were unable to attend the Symposium have expressed interest in this special issue. Our best thanks are due to Messrs. Birkhäuser, Elisabethenstrasse 19, Basle, for having agreed to undertake the sale of this issue, on a commission basis, outside the Swiss Entomological Society's normal channels of distribution.

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