

Welcoming address

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WELCOMING ADDRESS

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour and great pleasure to welcome you to the First Swiss Symposium on Juvenile Hormones organized by the Swiss Entomological Society on the occasion of the 150th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Academy of Sciences. It gives considerable satisfaction to note that so many distinguished research workers have responded spontaneously to the invitation and have been willing to come to Basle. The members of the Council of the Swiss Entomological Society and the managements of the chemical firms of Switzerland involved in pesticide research would like to take this opportunity to express their best thanks to all of you, in particular the many lecturers and foreign guests, who felt that a meeting on Juvenile Hormones would serve a useful purpose.

This is the first time that we have an opportunity to hear, from the most experienced experts, the latest position regarding Juvenile Hormone Research, both in the chemical and biological field. I am myself greatly impressed by the progress made in this particular field of research over the last few years, and we are all extremely glad to see that several of the pioneers in Juvenile Hormone Research are able to be with us. However, it is with regret that I have to announce that Profs. Gilbert, Röller, Trost and Wigglesworth, as well as Dr. Slama, are unable to attend the meeting.

One of the reasons for holding this Symposium in Basle is the fact that many initiatives in pesticide research and development originated here. The progress made in the last 30 to 40 years has revolutionized the use of pesticides in plant protection, hygiene and the protection of stored goods.

In this connection I should like to mention a few recommendations found in a Guide for Pest Control Measures, published in 1932 : Cockroaches are repelled by placing slices of cucumbers in their hiding places ; the best remedy for bed bugs are fresh leaves of sage (*Salvia officinalis*) ; house flies do not enter rooms if castor-oil plants are growing on every window sill.

In retrospect we have already taken a good step forward in improving the world's food and health problems by means of modern pesticides. This is not the place to give a review of the achievements which have been made in these very important spheres of development for the benefit of mankind. The reason for our meeting is to assess a novel approach to insect control — one with a fascinating background and which poses a challenge to scientific endeavour.

It will be the aim of the Symposium to assess the present state of Juvenile Hormone Research, both chemical and biological, and to exchange views concerning future lines of investigation. What are the practical implications of the results already elaborated and to what extent may we be able, in future, to replace conventional insecticides?

What would be more natural than that the many interesting chemical findings to date should appeal to every one of us to search for ways in which to apply Juvenile Hormones in the various fields of insect control, that is, in plant protection, hygiene and the protection of stored products.

I have asked four of the lecturers to take the chair in turn of the four half-day sessions. The chairmen will be

Prof. W. S. Bowers
Prof. E. J. Corey
Prof. C. M. Williams
Dr. G. Mathys

Ladies and gentlemen, this is the basis of our meeting here, and I cordially invite you to take an active part in our discussions, both in the official sessions and during the social events.

It is now my pleasure to declare this Symposium open.

Dr. W. BÜTTIKER
President