



Eva Crane Trust

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OBITUARIES

Dr Anna Maurizio: an appreciation from IBRA

Dr Anna Maurizio died at Liebefeld, Bern, on 24 July 1993 at the age of 93. She had joined the Bee Section of the Swiss Federal Research Institute for Milk Husbandry in 1928, and all her working career was spent there. Her doctorate thesis was on mycology, and she started bee research with a study on fungi that were potential honey bee pathogens. In 1929 she published a short paper on '*Pericystis alvei* Betts' (*Bee World* 10: 91–92), and included a final paragraph:

'We make use of this opportunity to thank Miss Betts [Editor] for her reviews of the world's bee literature, which are very valuable to all who are interested in scientific beekeeping.'

From 1930 until the 1980s Dr Maurizio published pioneering papers on the quantitative pollen analysis of honeys, and her research led many countries to adopt this investigative method for determining plant sources of their honeys. She also made important contributions to many related subjects, especially: the significance of pollen nutrition in honey bees; functions of their individual glands in the digestive process; processes of honey production by honey bees; pollen morphology; nectar and honeydew honeys; bee pollination; toxicity of various substances to bees; related subjects for bumble bees. In 1965, she co-authored *Das Waldhonigbuch*, on honeydew honeys, with W Kloft and W Kaeser. In 1969, with Ina Grafl, she published *Das Trachtpflanzenbuch*, on bee plants in relation to their nectar and pollen, which reached a third edition in 1982. She also wrote chapters on the bees' production of

honey, and the microscopy of honey, for *Honey: a comprehensive survey* (1975).

In 1990 Dr J Louveaux paid tribute to Dr Maurizio's scientific work, with an extensive bibliography (*Apidologie* 21: 397–416). When I started to edit *Bee World* in 1950, she contributed one of the first of a series of papers intended to make research work, that had been published only in other languages, available to English-speaking readers. In this paper she showed that the length of life of a worker honey bee depends on both her pollen intake during the first few days of life and her activity in feeding larvae. Although Dr Maurizio published most of her research alone, she had active contacts with a wide circle of scientists in many countries, and she also provided a link between young scientists and those who had taught her and whom she especially respected: Professor E Zander, R Burri and O Morgenthaler. It was through her help and support that Dorothy Hodges compiled her book *The pollen loads of the honeybee*, published by BRA in 1953.

Anna Maurizio was active and influential in many scientific international organizations and projects concerned with bees and beekeeping. She was always concerned to maintain high standards in their work and publications, and to promote collaboration between them. In 1950 she was instrumental in founding the International Commission for Bee Botany (now the International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships), and she was the President from its foundation and later Past-President. *Bee World* (the official organ of IBRA) has been the official organ of the Commission since 1977.

Anna Maurizio was actively interested in the Bee Research Association from its

foundation in 1949. She and other members of the Swiss Bee Section — especially W Fyg — collaborated in preparing the first of twelve volumes of the *International Bee Research Association dictionary of beekeeping terms* (1951). Anna appreciated especially the opportunities IBRA afforded for interaction and collaboration between bee scientists in Britain and countries of continental Europe. (Her childhood had been spent in Poland where her father was a Professor of Botany, and her knowledge of Polish facilitated collaboration between scientists in western Europe and the Slav countries.) She served on IBRA Council from 1958 to 1987.

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