

In Memoriam Dr. Luigi Carraro



Dr. Luigi Carraro, Gigi to us, was born in Sagrado (GO) in 1960; a date that is easy to remember in the relative scale of the ages of some researchers of the DIPI of Udine. We looked like we were set up in an orderly line, separated by twenty years: Luigi, the undersigned, and Prof. Refatti. Defining the course of his life also seemed just as straightforward and foregone to us. Instead it was an unbearable, unexpected passing on 28 November 2009.

Luigi completed his secondary school studies at the scientific college of Gorizia and graduated from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Udine. In line with his measured ways of understanding life, he did not even seek degree honours. He wanted to earn them later, in the field, during his work as a researcher, which he conducted with exemplary commitment and seriousness, and with love and intelligence in particular. We understood that he knew how to abandon the superficiality of more common thoughts, led as he was by an exceptional sensitivity, constantly in search of more profound and intimate spheres. Only a few words were needed to perceive the level of his considerations. Besides, that's best since he was a man of few words, not even to convince the incredulous or in search of greater popularity. He was as though he was destined to be honest.

He devoted much of his time to research, which he virtually continued non-stop, going from his degree thesis to the experience enforced and conducted as a researcher at the Department of Biology and Plant Protection at the University of Udine (DIPI). His main research concerned the viruses and viroses of the graminaceae and fruit trees and the phytoplasmas and phytoplasmoses of trees and herbaceous plants. Vectors and their relationships with plants and studies into epidemiology were his great love. It isn't a coincidence that he was the first and main person to discover the phytoplasma vector of the European Stone Fruit Yellows. He published in leading scientific journals, which often asked for his contributions. And he loved scientific conferences, where he came to life.

His death is such a shame; the result of an unacceptable error by higher decision-making powers, at least for us.

He will be missed by many, as a person and as a figure, the latter increasingly harder to find, as someone who knew how to work inside and outside the laboratory.

But he will be most sorely missed by his young daughter Carolina, whom he adored and who has suddenly been faced by this turn of fate, and his wife Nazia.

Prof. Ruggero Osler

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