



## ASA Annual Meeting- MINUTES

**In-person, National Harbor, MD, Sun Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 (12:00-1:00 PM EST)**

- Recorded and submitted by Kaitlin Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer
- Business meeting was led by President-Elect Alexandra Revynthi.
  
- 1. Welcome
- 2. Remembrance of Deceased Acarologists
  - a. Dr. Carl Childers (1938-2023)
    - i. Dr. Childers obtained his PhD in entomology in 1974 from the University of Missouri where he studied Acarology
    - ii. In 1977, he joined the University of Florida, Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) and retired in 2005, after 28 years of service!
    - iii. During his career, he supervised 7 postdocs and 4 graduate students
    - iv. Author and co-author more than 250 publications
    - v. President of the ASA in 2003
    - vi. Editor positions for the Journal of Entomological Science and International Journal of Acarology
    - vii. Subject editor for the Arthropod Management Tests
    - viii. His research focused on the biology, taxonomy and control of pest mites such spider mites, flat mites and rust mites in Florida citrus orchards. He also studied the species community of phytoseiids
  - b. Dr. Jean Gutierrez (1936-2023)
    - i. Jean Gutierrez dedicated his life to Tetranychidae, working within the French Institute ORSTOM (now IRD)
    - ii. He described numerous new species, participated to the Spider Mites World Crop Pest and before retiring published with his colleagues Hans R. Bolland and Carlos H.W Flechtmann the World Catalogue of the Spider Mite Family
  - c. Dr. Reinhart Schuster
    - i. Studied oribatid mites for his PhD
    - ii. In 1971, he returned to his hometown Graz, Austria to assume office of a full professor of Zoology at the University of Graz
    - iii. Dr. Schuster established a novel direction of research and teaching at the institute in Graz, not only on soil zoology but with a particular focus on Acarology
    - iv. He retired (“emeritus status”) in 1998
  - d. Moment of Silence
- 3. Acarology Symposia for ESA 2023
  - a. **Current Advances** (8:15-12)
  - b. The **Emerging Invasive Pest Mites and Mite-Transmitted Diseases** Member Symposium will take place Sunday, November 5, 2023 1:30 PM – 4:30 PM in Chesapeake 6
  - c. The **Predators of the Acari World** Member Symposium will take place Tuesday, November 7, 2023 1:30 PM – 5:30 PM ET in Camellia 1
- 4. Treasurer’s Report (Kaitlin Campbell)



- a. Membership has increased to 87 members in 2023 largely due to efforts of students in recruitment.
  - b. Reviewed expenses and income of the society. Net result is positive funds for the year (\$9000). We were able to give additional awards thanks to generous donations.
  - c. Membership renewal will use a different portal this year. It can be accessed from the Acarological Society's membership webpage or directly at: <https://acarologicalsoc.square.site/> It also allows donations and merchandise purchases.
5. Student Awards
- a. 3 Abstract awards (\$400) were awarded this year to students
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> Place- **Paola Villamarin**, University of Florida  
Evaluation of four release methods for *Amblyseius swirskii* on bell pepper commercial production
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place- **Marcello De Giosa**, University of Florida  
Extraction of Saliva from Eriophyid Mites by Immersion in Different Oils
    - iii. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place- **Maria Canon**, University of Florida  
Evaluation of Biorational Pesticides Against Acarine Pests of Hemp (*Cannabis sativa*), a Greenhouse Approach and Production of Mite-Free Cuttings
  - b. 2 Outstanding student presentation awards were awarded this year (\$400)
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> place (Plaque and \$400)- Julia St Amant- University of Florida  
Get those fleas off my bees: Assessing the isoxazoline class as possible treatments for *Varroa destructor* control and safety towards honey bees (*Apis mellifera*)
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> place- Mariana Monteiro De Souza Barros- University of Florida  
Screening commercially-available predatory mites for biological control of *Megalurothrips usitatus*
6. Students of Acarology Report (Marcello De Giosa, Student Representative)
- a. Student group is doing well and growing
  - b. Students have merchandise for sale in the exhibit hall and also online
7. Social Media Manager- (Carlos Barretto), update by Alexandra Revynthi
- a. Carlos will be stepping down as social media manager
  - b. Looking for new person to fill position.
  - c. ASA has website, twitter (@AcarologicalSoc), facebook (@AcarologicalSoc), and youtube channels (Acarological Society of America, [www.youtube.com/channel/UCHhTYCYByN0W8E9b-NiRTgA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHhTYCYByN0W8E9b-NiRTgA))
8. ASA nominations (all nominations below were seconded by membership at the meeting) meeting. Nominees will be contacted to provide a brief biosketch to share with members at election time. Reminder that all nominees must be members during the years they are active in the position.
- a. President- elect (2024, president in 2025)- Orlando Combita
  - b. Governing Board Members (3 years, 2024-2026) (2 spots available)
    - i. Marcello De Giosa
    - ii. Alvaro Toledo
    - iii. Denise Navia
    - iv. Joshua Benoit



- v. Harold Harlan
  - vi. Livia Ataide
  - c. Social Media Manager (2024-2026)
    - i. No nominees, Emilie Demard volunteered
9. Election
- a. Election will open from Nov 17<sup>th</sup>- Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive an email with a google survey link.
  - b. Results will be announced Dec 5<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Terms begin January 1
  - d. If issues occur contact Alexandra Revynthi ([arevynthi@ufl.edu](mailto:arevynthi@ufl.edu))
10. Webinar series 2023 was a success- special thanks to Emilie Demard for organizing the diverse presentations. All recordings are on our youtube channel.
11. Next meeting: November 10-13<sup>th</sup> 2024 Phoenix, AZ
- a. Symposium proposals?
    - i. Current Advances in Acarology- Alexandra Revynthi will be main organizer
    - ii. Suggestions from the audience
      - 1. Lorena Lopez- Suggested we look to get a keynote lecture or special lecture or panelist sort of symposium.
      - 2. Ron Ochoa- Suggested we do something on the scale of biodiversity of Acari or Implications of species movement and introductions on the Blackmarket or via other means.
12. Other Acarology Meetings coming up:
- a. International Plant Protection Convention- IPPC- Alex is organizing the only acarology focused section
  - b. 2026 ICA- International Congress of Acarology Meeting, France
  - c. SIBAC- San Luis Brazil- acarology conference 2024
  - d. International Congress of Entomology- Kyoto – 4 symposia for Acari
  - e. 10<sup>th</sup> European Symposium on Acarology September 2-6, 2024- Greece
  - f. Latin American Congress of Acarology- 2025
  - g. Agricultural Acarology Workshop at University of Florida- not the same as the one that was taught at OSU, very hands on and methods based.
  - h. Soil Acarology Workshop 2024 in Arkansas
13. Adjourn