

# IN MEMORIAM

## K. Maramorosch

Jan 16, 1915–May 9, 2016



Karl Maramorosch, eminent virologist, entomologist and plant pathologist/virologist, and longtime serial editor of *Advances in Virus Research* sadly passed away aged 101 on May 9, 2016. Karl was born on January 16, 1915 in Vienna in the then Austro-Hungarian Empire in the middle of World War I. His father originated from Poland and his polyglot mother from Croatia. He grew up in Poland and received his university degree from Warsaw Agricultural University in Warsaw in 1938. In 1939 he fled from the Nazi invasion of Poland with his Polish wife Irene to Romania where both were

interred. Most of his family perished in the Holocaust. In 1947 Karl and Irene emigrated to the United States where Karl received his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 1949. He started his scientific career at Rockefeller University in New York working on insect-transmitted plant viruses, a topic he continued throughout his life. From 1961 to 1973 he was a Program Director of Virology at the Boyce Thompson Institute in Ithaca, NY, and then moved to the Waksman Institute of Microbiology at Rutgers University, New Jersey in 1974. In 1984 he joined the Entomology Department at Rutgers which remained his scientific home. He pioneered work on insect-transmitted plant viruses including microinjection into vectors as well as insect tissue culture to make major advances in our understanding of the replication of plant pathogens in insect vectors and the interaction between insects, viruses, and plants. Among numerous other distinctions, in 1980 Karl received the Wolf Prize in Agriculture, considered the “Agriculture Nobel Prize,” for his work on insect vectors and plant pathogens. Karl has authored or coauthored an impressive number of scientific papers (>800) and books (>100). Since 1973 Karl has served as a serial editor for *Advances in Virus Research*, the oldest review series in virology. Karl lived to see his autobiographical book “**The Thorny Road to Success: A Memoir**” published recently, a lasting testimony of his life in the context of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Karl was a role model in his perseverance and his dedication to and enthusiasm for science. Together with Fred Murphy and Aaron Shatkin, Karl significantly influenced *Advances in Virus Research*, which retains its place among the premier virology reviews. In 2007 Karl’s engaging account of his life and career, entitled “Viruses, Vectors, and Vegetation: An autobiography,” was published in Volume 70. We mourn his death and honor his memory!

MARGARET KIELIAN  
THOMAS C. METTENLEITER