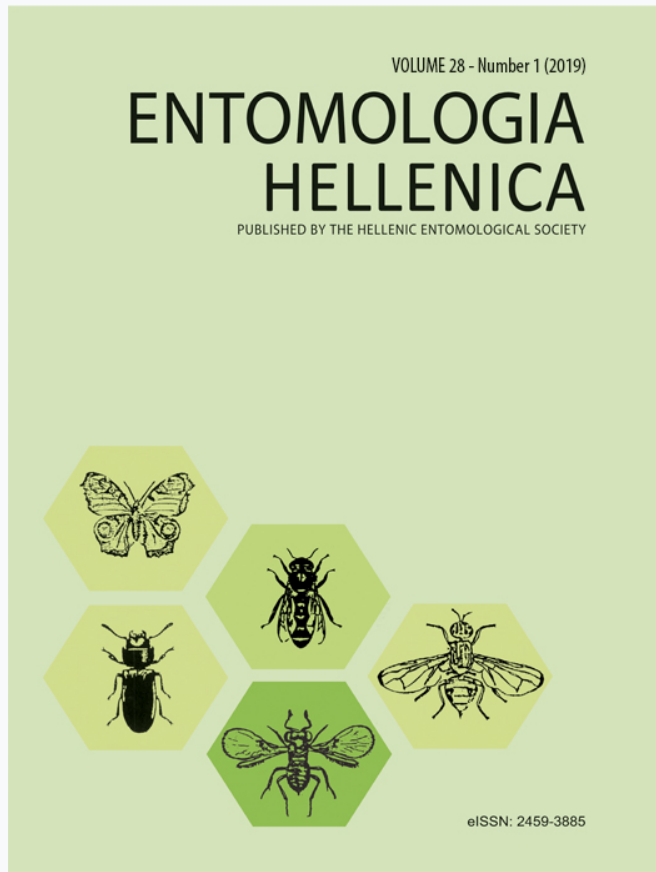


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## DR NIKOLAOS RODITAKIS: Obituary

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## DR NIKOLAOS RODITAKIS: *Obituary*

Dr. Nikolaos Emmanuel Roditakis originated from the village of Episkopi Pediadas, Heraklion, Crete. He graduated from the Agricultural University of Athens (then Highest Agricultural School of Athens) with specialization in viticulture in 1971. In 1973-1975 he served as temporary agriculturist for the control of the olive fruit fly in the prefectures of Heraklion and Lashithi, Crete. During 1976-1979 he served as an applied agriculturist of the Directorate for

Agricultural Development of Heraklion Prefecture in the districts of Arkalochori, Kasteli, and Chersonisos, successively. He received a Doctorate degree from the Agricultural University of Athens, Laboratory of Ecology and Environment in 1993. His thesis subject was “Effect of temperature and photoperiod on diapause development in the grape berry moth *Lobesia botrana*”, supervised by professor M. Karandinos.



*In the two, rather recent, photos we see Nikos speaking in the Museum of Natural History of Crete (left), and leading a group of concerned citizens on an educational excursion on Mount Yuchtas, south of Heraklion city (right).*

Dr. Roditakis served as research entomologist at the Institute of Plant Protection of Heraklion, Crete for 30 consecutive years, 1980-2010. In addition to research duties, he served as director of the above Institute, and the Institute of Vineyard, Vegetables and Floriculture as well, during 1998 – 2003. His research interests and activities included, among others, the management of entomological pests of viticulture and horticulture, and the identification of new entomological pests in agriculture in general. He published or presented his research results in many international or local scientific journals or meetings. He participated in several research

programs, often as coordinator, financed by international and local organizations or authorities. Finally, he supervised the research of several students, and actively close-collaborated with farmers and co-operatives in solving urgent problems of plant protection. Following his retirement, Dr. Roditakis collaborated with the Museum of Natural History of the University of Crete and soon became President of the Association of Friends of the Museum, 2010-2014. Under this capacity, he contributed considerably to the development of the Museum scientifically. He also contributed a lot to the improvement of the museum exhibitions. He persistently promoted

activities for the environmentally friendly biological control of insect pests. His role in the organization of an international exhibition on “Dinosaurs of Patagonia” was decisive. This exhibition in Athens and in Heraklion, Crete was a great success. The money collected from tickets and exhibition sales secured the Museum budget for several years. Dr. Roditakis more than anything else was an admirably friendly personality, always eager to collaborate, an enthusiastic and dedicated worker for the preservation of

the environment through sound, environmentally nontoxic insect pest control methodologies. As such he will be long remembered.

Nikos Roditakis is survived by his wife Irene, his two sons Emmanuel and Andreas and grandchildren.

Prof. Emeritus Aristidis P. Economopoulos  
University of Crete