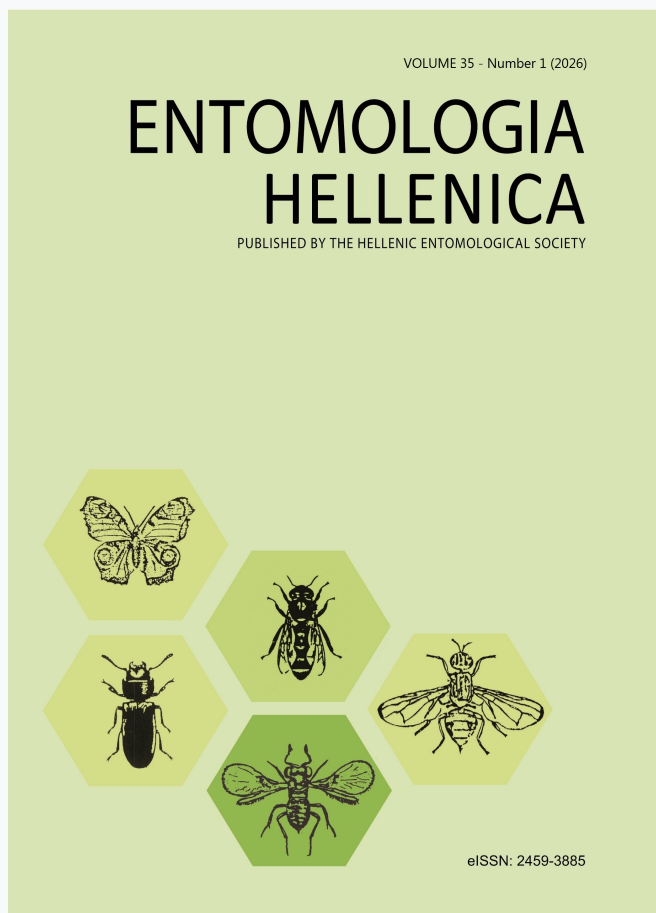


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## Konstantinos\_Bloukidis\_Obituary

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## KONSTANTINOS BLOUKIDIS, 1944-2026

### **A dedicated crop protection scientist always promoting knowledge, a true teacher**

Born in Limni, Evia, in January 1944, Konstantinos Bloukidis was the son of a father originating from Asia Minor and a mother native to Limni. During his school years, he was a highly diligent student and graduated from the High School of Chalkida, then a six-grade Gymnasium. He subsequently studied at the Agricultural University of Athens (then the Highest Agricultural School of Athens).

In 1972, he entered the crop protection industry as a sales representative with Bayer in Greece, then Bayer Epipha AG. His aptitude for research and innovation soon became evident, and the company sent him to the Bolzano Research Station in northern Italy, where he received training in development trials and became familiar with the organization and management of an experimental research station. Those years were marked by rapid innovation in synthetic crop protection substances, particularly insecticides and fungicides.

Upon returning to Greece, he began organizing the local trials unit and actively participated in Bayer agronomic development meetings abroad. As head of trials operations in Greece, he made an important contribution to the development of Bayer's major crop protection active substances and products up to his retirement, with insecticides forming a significant part of his work. Aphids, whiteflies, spider mites, various moth species, leaf miners, the olive fruit fly, and other fruit flies held no secrets for him or for his remarkable eye for detail. An extremely active personality and a dedicated scientist, he participated in scientific conferences throughout Greece related to agronomy and, especially, crop protection. He was a deeply engaged and active member of the Hellenic Entomological Society from very early in his professional career and participated in its congresses on numerous occasions, often presenting papers himself. His skills, profound knowledge, dedication, persistence, and determination were acknowledged and highly valued not only within Bayer but also by the wider academic community across Greece.



One of his most important qualities was that he never kept knowledge to himself. On the contrary, he actively sought to share it and to train younger colleagues, whether in the field, in the laboratory of the Bayer Hellas GEP trials station, or alongside farmers in their fields. Thanks to his deep understanding of agronomy, crop protection techniques, insect and fungal life cycles, he was always able to explain even complex situations in simple words and to provide sound advice and practical solutions.

Personally, I had the privilege of collaborating with and learning from Kostas from 1990 until his retirement. Together, we visited trials, discussed solutions both in the office and in the field with farmers and agronomists across Greece, and participated in product development meetings, mainly in Monheim, Germany, with colleagues from around the world. Beyond his deep knowledge and professional skills, I greatly respected Kostas for his modesty, integrity, and the strong human values that guided him throughout his life.

As the father of two sons, he believed strongly in the potential of the younger generation and voluntarily devoted time to mentoring younger colleagues within the company.

He retired from Bayer Hellas in 2005, after a dedicated professional career of more than 30 years in the Research and Development sector.

In conclusion, I consider Kostas Bloukidis a dedicated scientist, a great colleague, and a true teacher; an exceptional personality of high human values, modesty, and utmost integrity.

He is survived by his beloved wife Dimitra, two sons, George and Alkis, and one granddaughter.

Katerina Achimastou

Head of Regulatory Science for Italy, Greece, Cyprus & Malta, Bayer AG