

Istituto Agrario di San Michele all'Adige  
SafeCrop Centre

PROCEEDINGS

# 5<sup>th</sup> International Workshop on Grapevine Downy and Powdery Mildew

Edited by

I. Pertot, C. Gessler, D. Gadoury, W. Gubler, H.-H. Kassemeyer, P. Magarey

San Michele all'Adige, Italy, 18-23 June 2006

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### **5th International Workshop on Grapevine Downy and Powdery Mildew**

San Michele all'Adige, Italy, 18-23 June 2006

Workshop organised in the frame of the project "Centre for research and development of crop protection with low environment and consumer health impact" funded by Provincia Autonoma di Trento, Fondo della Ricerca

#### *Editors*

Ilaria Pertot

SafeCrop Centre Istituto Agrario di San Michele all'Adige  
Via E. Mach 1, San Michele a/A (TN), Italy

Cesare Gessler

SafeCrop Centre Istituto Agrario di San Michele all'Adige  
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Geneva NY 14456, U.S.A.

David M. Gadoury

Cornell University, Department of Plant Pathology,  
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva NY 14456, U.S.A.

Walter D. Gubler

Department of Plant Pathology,  
University of California, Davis, CA 95616, U.S.A. D-79100 Freiburg, Germany

Hans-Heinz Kassemeyer

Staatliches Weinbauinstitut Freiburg,  
Department of Biology, Merzhauser Str. 119, D-79100 Freiburg, Germany

Peter Magarey

South Australian Research and Development Institute  
PO Box 4111, Loxton 5333, Australia

#### *Organization*

Daniele Barbacovi, Luigi Tamé

SafeCrop Centre, Istituto Agrario San Michele all'Adige

### **5th International Workshop on Grapevine Downy and Powdery Mildew - Proceedings**

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## Preface

The origin of this story is in the wise recognition of some researchers that the knowledge on *Plasmopara viticola* is incomplete and presents many contradictions. So, as a logical consequence for scientists, a meeting of colleagues was called (Geneva, USA, 1991). After this first meeting some of us recognized the trueness that the subject is far to be fully understood and we may have to change our questions and approach. Moreover we realized that we must join our efforts and stop working alone in our labs and fields to just show amazing presentations in congresses (Freiburg, Germany, 1994). Some of the purposes remained empty words, but progresses were slowly made. In the third meeting (Loxton, Australia, 1998) we have seen some new ideas, approaches and data emerging. The fourth meeting (Davis, USA, 2002) had to reaffirm the necessity of collaboration and, in some particular topics, finally more cooperation was started. Being tempted to do our research alone, come to a workshop, present results and go back home without confront is a risk always present. We should always remember that doubt and discussion is the driving force for research. Truly comparing progresses and results, exchanging our information, doubting that our approach is the only correct one will help us in getting a continuous improvement in our knowledge. The strict contact with agriculture and markets is an opportunity that will help us focusing real problems. We are now at the beginning of the fifth meeting and, as scientists working on powdery and downy mildew of grape, we have few questions to answer at the end of this week. What are the most important discovers on these two important diseases? What are the positive benefits to growers and what it is still needed to be solved? Which approach should we choose: a small group with a clear focused topic and a common research program discussed prior or a large open group, as wide as possible, so to exchange information, and pick up new ideas? What do we need to foster common research and/or development, funding?

This fifth International Downy and Powdery Mildew Workshop will enjoy the hospitality of Trentino. The reception of the proposal to hold this meeting in San Michele was absolutely great and, as you will experience, most the major wineries participate with enthusiasms. However this is also a clear message to us: “bring us better solutions to control downy and powdery mildew than we currently have”.

We also thank the Istituto Agrario di San Michele all’Adige (IASMA), which hosts us and offers its infrastructure and experience in organising international scientific meeting. It is important to mention here that IASMA played and plays, in relation to research on grape and wine, a prestigious role in Italy. Not at last, we would like to thank all the collaborators of Safecrop Centre, whose help made this meeting possible.

We thank the “Provincia Autonoma di Trento”, which funded SafeCrop, a centre for research and development of crop protection with low environment and consumer health impact.

Cesare Gessler and Ilaria Pertot

San Michele all’Adige, 28 May 2006