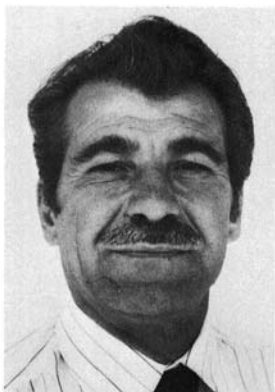


CIBA-Geigy Award

Sponsored by the CIBA-Geigy Corporation, this award is given to individual plant pathologists who have made significant recent contributions to the advancement of knowledge of plant diseases or their control. The award consists of a trophy and an expense-paid trip to Basel, Switzerland.

Srecko Mirko Mircetich



Srecko (John) M. Mircetich is the recipient of the CIBA-Geigy Award for his unique contributions to the knowledge of several difficult and complex relationships of diseases of tree fruit and nut crops. His research has gained national and international recognition.

His investigations of the role of various *Phytophthora* species in the death of almond, peach, apricot, cherry, and walnut trees have led to development of control programs in California orchards and have improved methods of screening for resistance to these diseases. His versatility in research is demonstrated by an ability to work with diverse pathogenic organisms. He has made significant contributions on the etiology of almond leaf scorch, a bacterial disease, and identified and studied prunus stem pitting virus, part of a complex of pathogens especially afflicting cherry orchards and occasionally peaches, apricots, and plums. A recent outstanding contribution has been his work on blackline of walnut, a serious disease of the important

California nut crop. Dr. Mircetich has demonstrated that the pathogen, long thought to be a rootstock incompatibility, is a strain of cherry leafroll virus, and he has devised strategies for saving existing orchards and preventing spread.

Born in 1926 in Skela, Yugoslavia, Dr. Mircetich received his Engineer of Agronomy degree in 1952 from the University of Sarajevo, and his Plant Protection Specialist degree from the University of Belgrade in 1954.

As a young man, Dr. Mircetich was an active fighter against the German occupation of his native country during World War II. After his studies at the University of Belgrade, he was employed as assistant plant pathologist at the Experiment Station, Bar, Yugoslavia, and later was appointed head of the Plant Protection Department. He immigrated to the United States in 1956 and became a U.S. citizen in 1960. In 1958, he was accepted as a technician in George A. Zentmyer's laboratory at the University of California at Riverside. This employment stimulated his interest in studies on *Phytophthora*. He was awarded a Ph.D. degree in 1966 from the University of California at Riverside. Since that time he has been employed as research plant pathologist, USDA, SEA/AR. He was stationed in Beltsville, MD, until 1972 and is presently at the University of California at Davis.