Ciba-Geigy Award

Sponsored by the Ciba-Geigy Corporation, this award is given to indiviual plant pathologists who have made significant 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.

Ariena H. C. van Bruggen

Ariena H. C. van Bruggen was born in the Netherlands. She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in plant pathology from the Agricultural University in Wageningen, the Netherlands. From 1976 to 1980 she was an associate expert in plant pathology with F.A.O. for the United Nations in Ethiopia. Dr. van Bruggen received her Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the Boyce Thompson Institute of Plant Research at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, and in 1986 she joined the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Davis.

Dr. van Bruggen is widely recognized for her enthusiasm, knowledge, and dedication to teaching and for her interest in the professional development of graduate students.

At Davis, her research includes diseases of vegetable crops, concentrating on in-depth studies on the etiology, epidemiology, and control of corky root of lettuce. Her demonstration that a newly described bacterium is the cause of corky root in lettuce represents a significant accomplishment. The corky root bacterium, *Rhizomonas suberifaciens*, differs from the bacteria that are known to be plant pathogens or rhizosphere organisms, and its identification was a challenge.

Dr. van Bruggen has addressed many aspects of corky root. She demonstrated an interaction between nitrogen fertilizer and the disease and characterized the host range of the bacterium, its relative ability to grow on roots of host and nonhost plants, and its poor ability to grow as an epiphyte on plant shoots. Various indices of corky root development were compared to give information on the course of infection and disease development on tap and lateral roots of lettuce.

Dr. van Bruggen was recently awarded the Jacob Eriksson Prize at the ICPP meeting in Montreal during July 1993, by the Jacob Eriksson Prize Commission and the Swedish Academy of Science.

Ariena carried with her from Cornell to Davis the tradition of SPOOF (Society for the Preservation of Outlandish Facts), which has become an annual event at the department and has reportedly included some innovative scientific discoveries such as the "Blues Gene." Some even claim to have identified the four-legged causal agent of "Yard Spot" and have learned to identify diseases via windshield assessment—from the car at about 60 miles per hour.