

Jacob B. Biale — In Memoriam

The passing of Jacob Biale was a loss to the avocado industry and to the community. Jacob Biale died July 3, 1989. He was a scholar and scientist who contributed much to society in the training of young scientists and in his basic research on the physiology of fruits. Upon completion of his B.S. in Horticulture and the Ph.D. in Plant Physiology at the University of California, Berkeley, he joined the staff in Subtropical Horticulture in 1935 at the University of California, Los Angeles campus, where he continued for the remainder of his academic life. He became Emeritus Professor of Biology in 1975.

Jacob Biale's major scientific interests were in the physiology of fleshy fruits, working primarily with avocado and citrus. His published papers on postharvest physiology and biochemistry of avocado, banana, citrus, cherimoya, papaya, pineapple, and other fruits are cited repeatedly by investigators in this field. He made major contributions to our understanding of the climacteric respiration behavior of avocado and of the metabolic processes in the cytoplasmic particles of the avocado fruit. He collaborated with many visiting scientists from overseas to pursue investigations of lipid metabolism, protein synthesis, and phosphorylation in avocado tissues. Among his many graduate students who also contributed to our expanding knowledge of avocado fruit metabolism was the late Roy Young of the Riverside campus.

His lectures on plant metabolism, frequently based on his extensive knowledge of the avocado, were attended by students, scholars, and investigators from all parts of the world. He was a consultant for several international projects related to FAO, ICAITI, and the Gordon Research Conference. He participated by invitation in many national and international symposia and conferences on plant metabolism.

Jacob is survived by his wife, a teacher; a son, a professor of history; and two daughters.

The academic community, the world of plant scientists, and the avocado industry have lost a great scholar and friend.

C.A.S.