



# Newsletter

Of the

## New York Microscopical Society

130 North Mountain Avenue, Montclair, New Jersey 07042-1841



May 2007

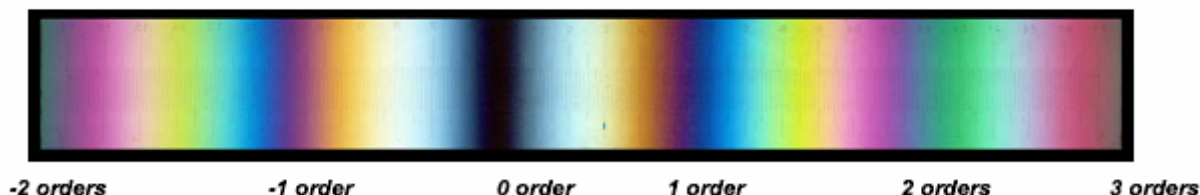
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### Interference Colors

Photograph by Philip C. Robinson

Edited by McCann Imaging



## Meeting Announcement

### 2007 Spring Lecture Series

#### Electron microscopy study of virus-like particles (VLPs) produced by parasitoid wasps of *Drosophila*

Dr. Jorge Morales, Research Associate and Manager of the Electron Microscopy Center, City College, City University of New York

Thursday, May 24th, 2007, 7:30 pm  
American Museum of Natural History, Linder Theater,  
New York, NY

The larvae of the fruit fly (*Drosophila melanogaster*) can be infected by several species of parasitic wasps. These wasps are associated with virus-like particles

(VLPs) believed to help the parasite survive by suppressing the host immune response. Light and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) have been used by previous researchers to study the structure and function of these VLPs. At this meeting, TEM data will be presented, which describes the biogenesis of newly discovered VLPs found in the wasp *Leptopilina victorinae*. In addition to TEM, scanning-EM, immuno-EM, cryo-EM and confocal microscopy were used to better understand the nature of these VLPs.

Jorge Morales is a Research Associate and Manager of the Electron Microscopy Center at City College, City University of New York (CUNY). He obtained his Ph.D. from the graduate program in Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology at CUNY. His research interest centers on the use of electron microscopy to study the structure and function of insect immune suppressive virus-like particles (VLPs) and retroviral particles associated with tumors.

NYMS Members and their guests are welcome to join the speaker for dinner (\$25.00 all inclusive) at 5:45 p.m. at Calle Ocho (<http://www.calleochonyc.com/>), 446 Columbus Ave, between 81<sup>st</sup> and 82<sup>nd</sup> streets. Please reserve your place(s) with Angela Klaus by noon on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Angela can be contacted by email ([avklaus2@yahoo.com](mailto:avklaus2@yahoo.com)) or by phone (201-988-6251).

**Mortimer Abramowitz – Fellow of the New York Microscopical Society**

In Memoriam, see page 3

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**The Mission of the New York Microscopical Society** is the promotion of theoretical and applied microscopy and the promotion of education and interest in all phases of microscopy.

### **Dues and Addresses**

Please remember to mail in your  
**Dues to Mary McCann, Membership  
Chair (see this page for address).**

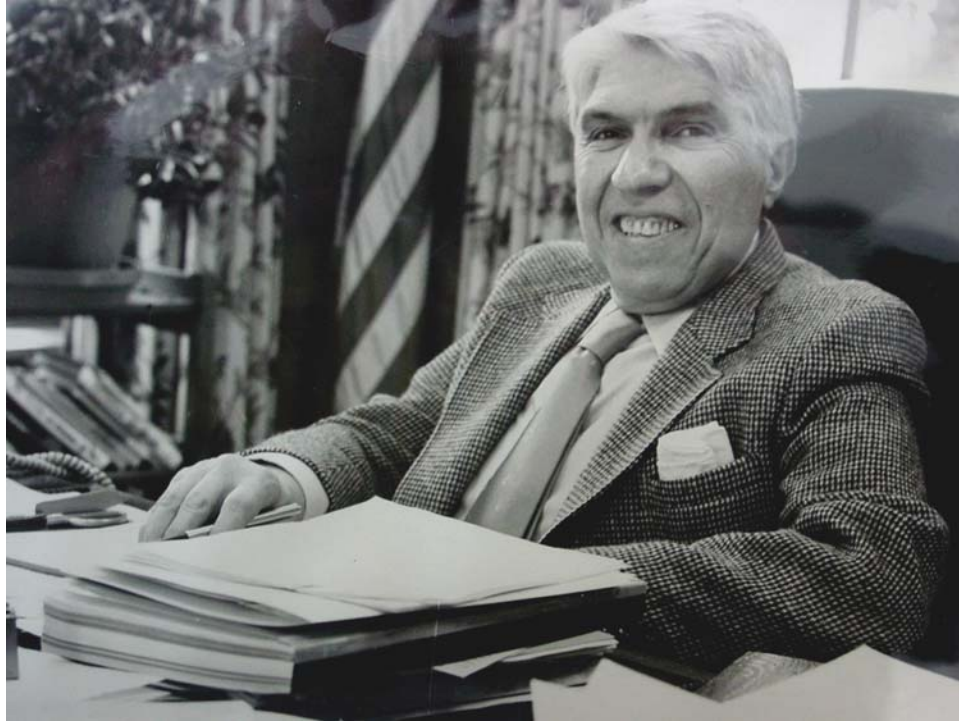
**Annual \$30  
Supporting \$60  
Life \$300 (payable within the year)  
Corporate \$175 (includes one  
advertisement in NYMS News)**

**To avoid missing notices:  
Notify Mary if you have changed your  
address, phone or email.**

### **Alternate Meeting Notifications**

Please note that due to time constraints in publishing, some meeting notices may be available by calling Mel Pollinger at 201-791-9826, or by visiting the NYMS website.

**Buy and Read a Good Book on Microscopy.**



**Mortimer Abramowitz , a Fellow of NYMS and the 2002 recipient of its Ernst Abbe Memorial Award, died on April 10, 2007.**

Long before I met Mort Abramowitz, I knew of his work with the microscope from his contributions to the book 'Photography As a Tool' one volume in a wonderful series on Photography by the editors of Time/Life Books (1970). Little did I know, that some day I would meet the man and eventually become his friend.

Mort Abramowitz had been an educator much of his life and in the course of pursuing microscopy as a hobby had become expert in its use and theory. Within a few days of his retirement from the position as superintendent of schools in Great Neck, Long Island, he joined the Olympus corporation in a new career as a consultant that should last 25 years. In addition to technical consulting he was involved with the training of young people who were making a career of microscopy at Olympus and he wrote a series of six brochures that methodically covered topics of microscopy from basics to photomicrography. His support was assured to anyone with a genuine interest in microscopy. The fans of the Website <http://microscopy.fsu.edu> will notice Mort Abramowitz' signature as a co-author with Michael Davidson on several tutorials.

Mort gave equally generously of his expertise and enthusiasm to NYMS, sometimes beyond the call of duty. There was a year when we invited him to be our banquet speaker at Gage and Tollner's historic restaurant in Brooklyn. Against his habit he asked for a chair to sit on while he talked. He was a bit weak

because his car had been hit and totaled by a truck while crossing the bridge.

At the annual courses in Woods Hole, the Mecca of Cell microscopy, Mort was an institution. Year after year he would be at the lectures ahead of time to secure a seat in the second row, third from the right, in Whitman auditorium. 'What is an image?' he liked to ask and if you expand that question beyond the optics into the realm of seeing then there is no simple answer but plenty of stimulating discourse.

Mort assembled a collection of 20th Century microscopes and was mildly defensive that their number had grown to over 30. While I got the tour of his acquisitions he said in his charming, ironic style 'The nice thing about having 30 is that nobody notices when you bring home yet another one'. A few years ago he donated his collection to NYMS.

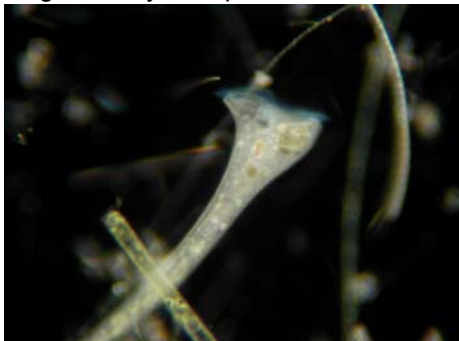
Despite his accomplishments as a micrographer Mort was not a 'specialist'. Once I suggested that among his interests photography was his first love but he set the record straight on the spot. His first loves were literature and music. I owe much to Mort's guidance and to the example he set of what is worthwhile and what is decent in this world.

**NYMS mourns the loss of a stellar member. Memorial by Jan Hinsch**

## A Walk In The Woods

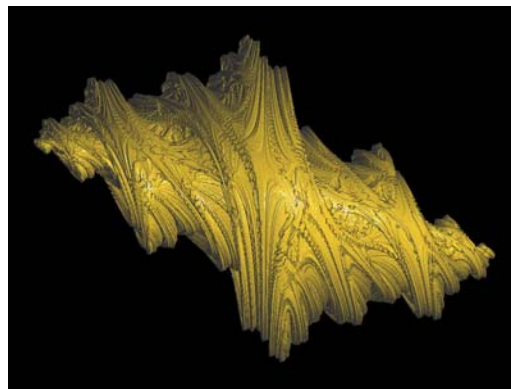
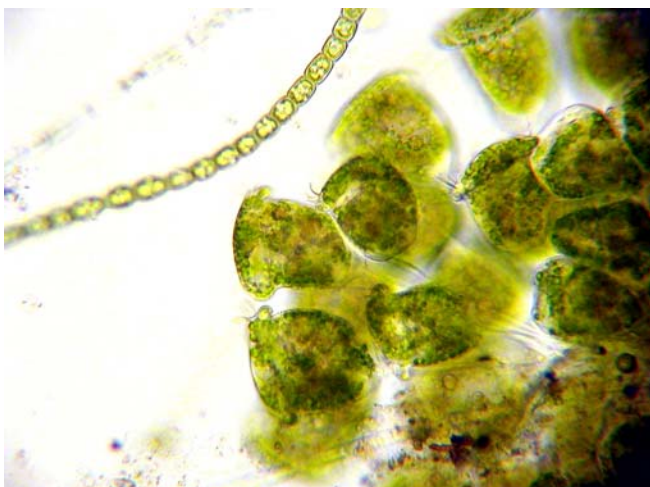
Continued from April 2007

The trail up to Ramapo lake, although only 0.6 miles long, is rocky, steep at times and is hiked best with good shoes and sturdy legs and provides a decent cardiovascular workout. The path around the lake continues for another four miles and is more or less graded, running



over gently rolling hills. Alongside this road many varieties of mushrooms and tree fungus can be found in as many shapes and colors. During Mid-Summer, wild blueberries and blackberries abound, their fruit-laden branches hanging over the sides of the road and also

drooping over the rocky edges of the lake. From early Spring, each weekend brings another stage in the development of the abundant mountain laurel flowers, their petals painted in various shades of pink, blue and also bright white. The lake is alive with aquatic insects, whose purpose in life, it appears, is to be snapped up by the rock bass and sunfish. Huge bullfrogs snore loudly and various types of snakes rest upon flat rocks absorbing as much sunlight as possible. The snakes may be seen slithering smoothly, stealthily, moving lightning-fast to hide under a rock or escape back into the woods to avoid being stepped upon by hikers, or snapped at by dogs out for a walk. Swans, geese and ducks also frequent the lake, and the sky above it. Bird-song is everywhere along the road and side trails. Below the surface of the lake the algae thrive, camouflaging the Vorticella and Stentor. ■ Mel



April 2007 Mystery image: A 3-D rendition of a fractal. No winners.



May 2007 Mystery photo

Got something you want published in the Newsletter?

- Technical article
- Images
- For sale
- Wanted to buy
- Any microscopy-related item

Contact Mel Pollinger

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**Regarding how you can receive future newsletters, you may choose one of the following methods:**

3. Regular mail, gray scale images: Do nothing. Color may continue.
4. Email with full color images, pdf file: Needs your active email address.