

## Chapter 2

# Fighting “The Insect Menace”: V–VII International Congresses of Entomology, 1932–1938

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## V International Congress of Entomology, Paris, 1932<sup>1</sup>

Whereas the 1920s were a decade of technological progress and economic prosperity, culminating for entomologists in the fourth congress in Ithaca, NY, with its spectacular display of novel machinery for carrying out almost every imaginable step in managing farm pests, 1929 ushered in an era of economic collapse and political and social upheaval throughout most of the world. Even the science of entomology could not escape the pernicious influence of nationalism and the rise of authoritarian regimes that transformed Europe during the 1930s. In 1928, when the Executive Committee for ICEs during the Ithaca congress debated where the 1932 congress should be held, there were few signs of the gathering storm.



**Fig. 2.1a.** Paul Marchal. President for V International Congress Entomology, Paris 1932. (<https://doi.org/10.1890/0012-9623-96.4.560>)

On Friday, July 15, 1932, the secretary general opened the congress in the Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon. Saturday, July 16 marked the celebration of the centenary of the Société Entomologique de France in the Grand Amphitheater of the National Museum of Natural History, with M. Albert Lebrun, president of the Republic, and Justin Godart, minister of public health, in attendance.

The fifth congress (ICE V) was convened on Monday, July 18, in the same place. Paul Marchal (Fig. 2.1a), member of the institute and arguably France’s most celebrated entomologist, presided over the congress as president; his vice presidents were Paul de Peyerimhoff, curator

<sup>1</sup> Passages translated into English from their original language by May R. Berenbaum with the use of some language familiarity combined with Google Translate are indicated in parentheses following the quotation as “MRB”; those translated into English by native speakers are indicated in parentheses following the quotation with the name of the translator.