

IN MEMORIAM, MIKE WRIGHT, 1914-1953

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Among those who knew him, Mike Wright was a promising aquatic and entomological ecologist as well as an individual possessing a commendable faculty for excellent expository teaching. His untimely death on December 26, 1953, at the age of thirty-nine came as a profound shock to his innumerable friends and colleagues.

Mike Wright was born in Sumner, Illinois, on May 26, 1914, and received his early education there, but received his secondary education in Mobile, Alabama. During those formative years he became acquainted with the late Dr. H. D. Loding of the Alabama Natural History Museum whose personal interest inspired and encouraged him to pursue entomological research. He spent three years (1931-1934) at Tulane University and then transferred to the University of Alabama where he earned the B.A. degree in 1935. He received the M.S. degree in 1937 from Vanderbilt University and the Ph.D. degree in Entomology at the Ohio State University in 1941. His doctoral research was conducted under the guidance of the late Dr. Clarence H. Kennedy, distinguished student of the Odonata.

Dr. Wright was employed by the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture as a Field Inspector from 1939 to 1943, and in 1944 he became Entomologist to the Second Service Command for all Army Service Camps in New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. He was appointed Professor of Biology at Tusculum College, Greeneville, Tennessee, in 1945 and taught at Tusculum continuously until 1950 with the exception of two summers of teaching at Appalachian State Teachers College, Boone, North Carolina. At the time of his death he was on the staff in Parasitology in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at Vanderbilt Medical School.

As a teacher Dr. Wright quickly established himself in the favor of both students and faculty colleagues. At Tusculum he took an active part in social and pre-professional student organizations and in organizing discussion groups concerned with a wide variety of biological topics. As one reviews his scientific achievements and considers his influence as a teacher, two admirable qualities seem prominent: an unusual sensitivity to beauty and order in nature, and a faculty for transmitting these impressions unaltered and undisguised.

In research his primary interest concerned the aquatic biology of the southeastern states. He published twenty-seven articles,

seventeen of which appeared in this journal. In subject, they ranged from the problems in the taxonomy and the ecological factors affecting immature aquatic insects to the general biology of Odonata. His doctoral dissertation, "A Comparison of the Dragonfly Fauna of the Lower Delta of the Mississippi River with that of the Marshes of the Central Gulf Coast," (*Ecol. Monographs* 13 (4): 481-497) represents a major contribution to the ecology of the Odonata. Another project in which he had long been gathering data concerned the biological control of insects by parasites and predators with special emphasis on the Odonata. The data were being organized for eventual publication. He was engaged in a revision of the section on Odonata for the new edition of the Ward and Whipple "Fresh-Water Biology" at the time of his death.

Dr. Wright made extensive collections of immature aquatic insects, especially Odonata, as well as a synoptic collection of adult Odonata chiefly from the Southeastern United States. This material has been deposited in the Insect Division of the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. Reprints of his publications were also placed on file there. Copies may be obtained either from the Curator, Dr. T. H. Hubbell, or the author.

It is certain that the Tennessee Academy of Science, the Southeastern Association of Biologists, the Society of Sigma Xi, as well as other organizations in which he was a member, have lost a worthy scientist and a respected authority on the Odonata. All of his associates have lost a warm and most congenial friend.

NEWS OF TENNESSEE SCIENCE

News-worthy items suitable for this column should be addressed to the News Editor, Dr. Carl Tabb Bahner, Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City.

Fisk University is sponsoring its Sixth Annual Infrared Spectroscopy Institute during the week of August 29—September 2, 1955. The Fisk Infrared Institutes are planned for the purpose of introducing chemists, biologists, physicists, and engineers to the utility of infrared spectroscopy in both industrial and academic research and in teaching. Morning sessions will be devoted to introductory lectures, afternoons to laboratory work and evenings to lectures on more advanced topics of a specialized nature. Laboratory facilities will include a variety of single and double beam spectrometers of both university and commercial design which will permit covering a spectral range from the visible to the far infrared. Besides introducing the participants to the methods and scope of infrared spectroscopy, an opportunity will be provided for advanced workers to enter into discussions with faculty members concerning problems of their own particular interest. This year the guest faculty is composed of the following: Dr. Robert C. Gore of the American Cyanamid Company; Dr. Alvin Nielsen of the University of Tennessee; and Dr. A. Lee Smith of the Dow-Corning Company. Regular faculty members include: Dr. Nelson Fuson of Fisk University; Dr. Ernest Jones of Vanderbilt University, and Dr. James Lawson of Tennessee A and I State University. Further information as well as application forms may be obtained by writing Nelson Fuson, Infrared Spectroscopy Institute, Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee.

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