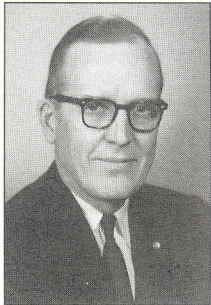


## Ralph H. Davidson 1908–1989



Ralph Howard Davidson, emeritus professor of entomology at Ohio State University, died Jan. 13, 1989, in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Davidson was born in Montgomery County, Ohio, on Jan. 19, 1908. In 1926, he entered Ohio State University College of Agriculture on a four year scholarship. He earned a B.S. in 1930, an M.S. in 1931, and a Ph.D. in 1935, all in entomology in the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Ohio State University.

Dr. Davidson had a long, distinguished teaching career in entomology at Ohio State University, beginning as a teaching assistant, moving up to full professor, and finally retiring as an Emeritus Professor July 1, 1971. He also taught several summers at the Franz Theodore Stone Laboratory at Put-In-Bay, Ohio, two summers at the University of Wisconsin, and one at Northern Arizona State University.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Davidson was deeply involved with research in systematics and economic entomology. He was employed for a period of time by the USDA Research Division, the Ohio Agricultural Extension Service, and the Ohio State University Research Foundation as the supervisor of various industrial and governmental research grants. His research interests included leafhopper taxonomy, agriculture, entomology, insect biology, and control and insecticide development. The results of these studies were published in more than 75 publications, including an outstanding college textbook, *Insect Pests of Farm, Garden and Orchard*, which is still widely used.

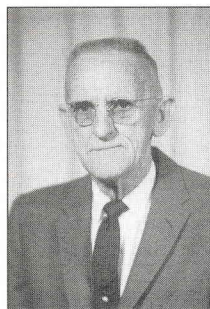
Dr. Davidson was also active in many societies, fraternities, and professional organizations, including Gamma Alpha, Gamma Sigma Delta honorary fraternities, and Sigma Xi. He served as past national president of Gamma Alpha. He joined the ESA and the Ohio Academy of Science in 1931 and has served both in many capacities, including the governing board of ESA. He was also a member of the Entomological Society of Washington. He was an honorary fellow in the ESA, the American Association

for the Advancement of Science, and the Ohio Academy of Science. He was also listed in *American Men of Science* and *Who's Who in the Midwest*.

Dr. Davidson is survived by his wife, Clara Jane, two children, and one grandchild.

D. Lyle Goleman  
Columbus, Ohio

## W. L. Owen, Jr. 1902–1989



W. L. Owen, Jr., a retired research entomologist with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, died February 1, 1989.

Mr. Owen received a B.S. in entomology from Auburn University in 1924 and an M.S. in entomology in 1925. He taught at Auburn for a short period before joining the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in April 1926.

After moving to Texas, Mr. Owen worked for a short time in Williamson County, conducting research on the control of the cotton fleahopper. In 1928, he moved to Presidio, Texas, where he headed a Texas Agricultural Experiment Station research team that was involved in the first studies done in Texas on the ecology and control of the pink bollworm.

In 1936, he transferred to Lindale, Texas, where he was attached to the experiment station near Tyler. After two years at Lindale, Mr. Owen moved to Terrell, Texas, where he remained until 1947. During the time at Lindale and Terrell, he researched the ecology and control of the fleahopper and boll weevil. During this period, he conducted several of his fleahopper experiments in west Texas near Lubbock and Spur.

In 1947, Mr. Owen accepted a position as cotton insect research project leader at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station at Lubbock, Tex. It was here during the last half of his career that he made some of his most significant contributions to entomology.

During the early 1950s, High Plains cot-

ton producers began to adopt the then popular practice of applying insecticides on an automatic basis to prevent insect damage. When the cotton bollworm began to increase in pest status, Mr. Owen suggested that the disruption of natural predator and parasite populations by the overuse of insecticide was the cause. Over several years, he conducted numerous experiments that showed that the automatic application of insecticides was creating new problems and increasing production costs. Mr. Owen advocated the use of insecticide for cotton insect control only after field inspections showed that control was necessary. In the case of the cotton fleahopper, his work showed that the percentage of fruit set during the early fruiting period should be considered along with fleahopper numbers in determining if and when insecticidal control was necessary. Because of his research efforts and leadership, the relatively stable cotton insect situation in the Texas High Plains was preserved and cotton insect damage and control costs remained low.

In addition to his research efforts, Mr. Owen also was an extension entomologist, working directly with county agricultural agents and farmers. He was highly respected by these groups and his advice was often sought.

During the last three years of his career, Mr. Owen laid the groundwork for a boll weevil research project that later developed into the largest such project in Texas. He also produced the first data showing that boll weevils could survive the winter in the Texas High Plains. He retired in 1966.

Mr. Owen is survived by his wife, Clara; two sons; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Don R. Rummel  
Lubbock, Tex.

## Theodore Roosevelt Adkins, Jr. 1930–1989

Theodore Roosevelt Adkins, Jr., Professor Emeritus of Entomology at Clemson University, died of a heart attack on August 28, 1989. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, on December 26, 1930. He grew up in south Georgia and graduated from West Crisp High School in 1948. He transferred to Auburn University after spending his

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