



Dr. John D. Briggs 1926-2002

Dr. John D. Briggs died November 27, 2002 at the age of 75, at his home in Worthington, Ohio. Dr. Briggs received the Bachelor of Science and PhD degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, under the direction of Dr. Edward Steinhaus. He was employed as Associate Entomologist at the Illinois Natural History Survey from 1955-1959, and then became Head of Entomology at the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation, Wasco, CA, where he was involved with the development of the first US commercial *Bacillus thuringiensis* product, Thuricide. In 1962, he joined the Department of Entomology, Ohio State University, where he served as Professor, and Associate Dean of the newly formed College of Biological Science in 1967-1969. In 1965, Dr. Briggs became director of the World Health Organization Collaborating Center for the Biological Control of Vectors at OSU, and served WHO for many years in other capacities. He was also Coordinator of Life Sciences in the Second Indonesian University Development Project. Additionally he collaborated with laboratories in Nigeria, Mexico, Czechoslovakia, and several other countries. He retired from Ohio State in 1992, but continued to be active in the community and invertebrate pathology.

Dr. Briggs was present at the founding meeting of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology in 1967 and hosted the first meeting of the Society at Columbus, Ohio, in 1968. He served the Society as Vice President and President (1970-1974), representative to the American Institute of Biological Sciences, chair of the committee for travel to SIP meetings, and produced the plaques presented to the Founders' Lecturers.

Dr. Briggs' doctoral research on humoral immunity of insects, published in 1958, was one of the earliest studies to explore this area of research that eventually led to the discovery of valuable antimicrobial agents in insects. At Ohio State, the Insect Pathology Laboratory also included Dr. W. Fred Hink and Dr. Gordon Stairs, and research during the 1960's to the 1980's included studies on insect cell culture, fungal, microsporidian, viral, and bacterial diseases, and biological

control of vectors. Dr. Briggs is remembered perhaps most fondly for mentoring of scientists who continue to contribute to the field of invertebrate pathology. These include Dr. John Kramer (Cornell University, retired), Dr. W. Fred Hink (Ohio State University, retired), Dr. Ann Cali (Rutgers University), Dr. Carol McKechnie Reeves, Dr. Eldon L. Reeves, Dr. Douglas Streett (US Department of Agriculture), Dr. Albert Pye (BioLogic), Dr. Faith Harriet Gray, Dr. Goro Kuno (US Communicable Disease Centers), and Dr. Elizabeth Davidson (Arizona State University). In March, 2002, four of these former graduate students, along with Jim Harper as representative of SIP, and David Denlinger, Chair of the OSU Department of Entomology, presented Dr. Briggs with an award honoring his many years of service. We will all miss him.

Elizabeth Davidson