

Bernard V. Travis

March 29, 1907 — October 12, 1980

Bernard V. Travis, professor of medical entomology emeritus, died at his home on October 12, 1980, after a prolonged illness. He was seventy-three.

Professor Travis was born at Umcompahgre, Colorado, and spent his boyhood on farms in Colorado and Arizona. After attending Phoenix Junior College, he obtained his Bachelor of Science degree at Colorado A & M. He then went to Iowa State University, where he received Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. In 1935 he joined the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as an assistant entomologist, and a few years later he became interested in what was to become one of his major research areas—mosquito biology focusing on mosquito control measures and repellents.

He became associate entomologist in 1942 and two years later was loaned to the navy in response to its appeal for specialists on insects. At that time the U.S. troops in the Pacific Theatre were suffering more casualties from malaria and other insect-borne diseases than from bombs and bullets. Barney's navy research on insects affecting human health in the Pacific Islands resulted in many publications, especially in the areas of new and improved repellents, in which he made his most notable contributions. There was a spectacular drop in casualties from insect-borne diseases, and the navy's unit of Malaria and Epidemic Control was awarded the unit citation for outstanding service.

Returning to active duty with the USDA in 1946, Dr. Travis assumed temporary charge of the research laboratory at Orlando, Florida, where he remained until he assumed the professorship of medical entomology and parasitology at Cornell in 1949. His unique qualifications also led to field studies in Alaska, where for four summers (1947-50) he directed a research unit of twenty-one scientists investigating the biology and control of biting insects.

While at Cornell, Dr. Travis taught medical entomology and parasitology, served as graduate committee chairman for thirty students, and expanded his own research and publishing to include studies of other insects of medical importance. One of his most important contributions, which gives impressive evidence of his library research, is a valuable set of reference works of worldwide coverage on insects, mites, and ticks that irritate people or transmit diseases. With a volume for each continent, *Arthropods of Medical Importance* brings together essential data on the biology, seasonality, geographic distribution, and ecology (including disease organisms transmitted) of each pest species, and cites the original sources for these data. This huge compilation was prepared by a multilingual

group of more than forty persons from eight countries, working under Professor Travis's direction over a period of fourteen years.

Duties off the Cornell campus also received his time and attention. During 1957-59 the Travises spent two years in the Philippines at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture at Los Baños. As a follow-up he returned for three months in 1963 to assist in the planning of a graduate school facility in the animal sciences. In 1968-69 he spent a sabbatical leave in Costa Rica doing field research on the biology of black flies. He has been a member of the advisory committee of Gorgas Memorial Laboratory (Panama), the U.S. Quartermaster Technical Committee on Repellents and Insect Control, and a study section of the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Travis's twenty-three years of distinguished service culminated in his chairmanship of the Department of Entomology for three years. Barney often said he came to Cornell to escape administrative work, but he accepted the call of his colleagues at a critical time for the department. He retired from the University on October 31, 1972.

Dr. Travis is survived by his wife of fifty years, Esther Lanchester Travis, and three children: Ruth Ellen Knutson, Robert Victor Travis, and Vesta Ann Hill; fifteen grandchildren; and a host of friends at Cornell and across the nation.

Clifford O. Berg, George G. Gyrisco, James E. Dewey