

# Philip Adna Readio

*December 18, 1897 — May 28, 1947*

Philip Adna Readio, Professor of Economic Entomology, passed away at Packer Memorial Hospital, Sayre, Pennsylvania, on May 28, 1947, at the age of forty-nine years. Until shortly before his untimely death, he was actively engaged in teaching economic entomology and directing the work of a large number of graduate students. In his passing the Faculty has lost a capable and loyal member; the profession of entomology a true friend and inspiring teacher.

Professor Readio was born at Northampton, Massachusetts, on December 18, 1897. Following graduation from Northampton High School, he attended Massachusetts State College, graduating with the B.S. degree in 1920. His academic training was supplemented by summer work with the U. S. Bureau of Entomology and for a brief period he served in the U. S. Army stationed at Camp Lee, Virginia. Graduate work in entomology was pursued at the University of Kansas from which institution he received his M. Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. During his period of service at Kansas, 1920-1934, he advanced from the rank of Instructor to Associate Professor. His teaching duties covered most of the phases of economic entomology offered at the University of Kansas, and introductory entomology as well. For one year, 1928-1929, Professor Readio held a National Research Council Fellowship and worked in the Division of Economic Entomology at the University of Minnesota.

With the outbreak of the Dutch Elm disease in eastern United States in 1933, funds were made available to Cornell University for an extensive investigation of both entomological and pathological phases of this problem. Professor Readio was invited to come to Cornell and take charge of the research dealing with the insect vectors of the pathogen and possible measures for their control. He arrived in Ithaca in June, 1934, and moved directly to the Boyce Thompson Institute at Yonkers where the work was to be conducted. His keen ability and broad knowledge of insect biology were reflected in the excellent contributions to our knowledge of the life history and habits of the European elm bark beetle, and in the guidance of an extensive program of research by his associates on the other insects associated with the American elm.

Upon the retirement of Professor Glenn W. Herrick as Professor of Economic Entomology in 1935, Professor Readio was placed in charge of the teaching of economic entomology in the department and relieved of all but supervisory connection with the Dutch elm disease project. His enthusiastic interest in this research program was maintained up to the time of his death, and the project received his active support.

Professor Readio was a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Alpha, Alpha Gamma Rho, The American Association of Economic Entomologists, the Entomological Society of America, Kansas Entomological Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He published several comprehensive works and numerous articles dealing with various phases of entomology. His study of the biology of the assassin bugs, the Reduviidae, was particularly outstanding.

As a teacher of economic entomology at Cornell, Professor Readio made a lasting contribution. His friendliness and inherent enthusiasm for the subject were constantly revealed to the students. Anyone concerned about his work always found a friendly welcome. Professor Readio's almost spontaneous willingness to do anything to be of help to his students or associates is well remembered by all of us. Particularly appreciative of this gracious manner were the students from foreign lands who found Professor Readio sympathetic, helpful and willing to assist them at all times. His sense of fair play and natural humor endeared him to a wide circle of colleagues and friends. In his passing there is a very deep and painful sense of loss.

*C.E. Palm, T.C. Watkins, D.S. Welch*