J. Douglas Hood was born in Laramie, Wyoming, on November 29, 1889, the son of Thomas Henry and Eva Marie Josephine Hood (nee Dickson). He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois in 1910, his Master of Arts degree from George Washington University in 1913, and his degree of Doctor of Philosophy in 1932 from Cornell University. He was assistant to the state entomologist of Illinois from 1910 to 1912; from 1912 to 1920 he was with the United States biological survey; then followed two years with advertising agencies in Cleveland, Ohio, and Rochester, New York. From 1922 to 1937, he was on the faculty of the University of Rochester, rising from instructor to full Professor. In 1937-38, he was a Resident Doctor at Cornell University, and in 1939, he became a member of the Cornell University faculty, from which he retired to become Professor, Emeritus, in September 1957.

His military career covered the period of World War I; he served as a second lieutenant in the District of Columbia national guard during the Mexican Border Incident in 1916-17, and as a first lieutenant in the Ordnance Department of the United States Army from 1917 to 1918, supervising the procurement of all gun carriages for railway, seacoast, and improvised field artillery.

His accomplishments were many, and in every area of endeavor he was outstanding and a perfectionist. He was an expert pistol and rifle shot and competed in national matches where very few were superior to him. He placed second in the 1914 competition at Sea Girt, New Jersey. He was an excellent huntsman and fly fisherman. In this last area, his ability was recognized by the Armed Forces during the World War II, when he was, for two seasons, an instructor in fly fishing for the military in Labrador. He tied all his own flies; a few may have been his equal in this art, but none excelled him. He was also an excellent bridge player. His other hobbies included the assembling of a remarkable stamp collection and the refinishing of antique furniture.

In his chosen field, entomology, J. Douglas Hood was the outstanding American authority on the Thysanoptera (Thrips), a group of small insects, the study of which he made his life's work. He published 173 papers in scientific journals on the taxonomy of the group. His papers were models of scientific writing in insect taxonomy, and the illustrations he prepared for these papers were exquisite in execution and detail. Occasionally his wit, and sometimes his sarcasm, enlivened the papers; being a perfectionist, he tolerated nothing less in his fellow workers.
He formed an unrivaled collection of the Thysanoptera which, at the time of its acquisition by the United States National Museum, contained over 60,000 slide mounts, representing 2,117 species; of these 1,055 were represented by holotypes of species that Hood described as new to science. The slide mounts represent the best that can be found anywhere. Many hours were spent in preparation of specimens, and the work was often fitted into a busy teaching schedule. Sometimes after a social evening, he would work late into the night Counting the tiny insects on slides. The greater part of the specimens that comprised his collection were collected by him in many parts of the world. His last, long, collecting trip outside the United States was to Brazil in 1951.

Although his association with students was that of a teacher in a large introductory course, to the student genuinely interested in entomology he would give freely of his time in instruction and in advice about techniques, places to collect, and workers who might be of assistance. In the field he was a most pleasant, enjoyable, and inspiring associate.

J. Douglas Hood was a member of a number of scientific societies, and at the time of his death he was one of the last living charter members of the Entomological Society of America. The Society was planning to honor him at its annual Meeting in December of 1966.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Hincher Hood, and a daughter and a son.

William L. Brown, Jr., Roger A. Morse, John G. Franclemont