

James Alfred Adams

September 2, 1906 — March 1, 1988

J. Alfred Adams, professor emeritus, died March 1, 1988 in Cary, North Carolina. He was born in Ventnor, Ontario, Canada, on September 2, 1906. He spent his childhood on his parents' farm and attended local schools. His early interests in the study of birds, plants, and nature in general never flagged during his eighty-one year life span. Dr. Adams received his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the University of Toronto, Agricultural College, Guelph, in 1931. He obtained his Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Iowa State University in 1933 and 1935, respectively, with specializations in entomology, zoology, and biological chemistry. His Master of Science dissertation was on the "Biological Investigations of the Firebrat, *Thermobia domestica* (Packard)". His doctoral thesis was *Thermobia domestica* (Packard) and its gregarine parasites". He married Ruth Dudgeon of Ames, Iowa in 1936 and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1939.

Dr. Adams' academic positions included instructor in biology at Iowa State College, 1935-37, instructor in zoology from 1937 to 1941, and assistant professor in zoology at Grinnell College in Iowa from 1941 to 1943. He taught during the summers of 1941 and 1942 at the Lakeside Laboratory of the University of Iowa, Okoboji Lake, where he made observations on aquatic insects. He joined the faculty of Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva as assistant professor in 1943 and was promoted to associate professor in entomology in 1947. He retired in late 1971 and was awarded the title of professor of entomology, emeritus, effective December 8, 1971.

Dr. Adams worked at the Hudson Valley Laboratory located earlier at Poughkeepsie and later at Highland, New York throughout his tenure at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. During the early years, he concentrated his research efforts on the biology and control of the Japanese beetle and the oriental beetle in the Hudson Valley and Long Island. He developed effective control procedures for these turf insect pests through the utilization of diseases, parasites, and chemicals. In 1952, he assumed additional responsibilities for developing suitable control procedures for sweet corn pests in the Hudson Valley. His detailed and precise studies on the biology and phenology of these pests enabled sweet corn growers to apply their control measures only when needed and at times to yield maximum benefits. He determined the temporal relationship between such flowering plants as lilacs and the development of insect pests. He was an early practitioner of what is now termed "integrated pest management" (IPM). In recognition of his valuable services, the sweet corn growers of the Hudson Valley honored Dr. Adams with a retirement banquet in December 1971.

Dr. Adams was elected to Phi Kappa Phi in 1933 and Sigma Xi in 1935. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Institute of Biological Sciences, Iowa Academy of Science, New York State Horticultural Society, and the American Society of Parasitologists. His life-long love of nature prompted him to be active in Hudson Valley conservation, natural history, and ecological programs. At the time of his retirement in 1971, he was president of the John Burroughs Natural History Society, a director of the John Burroughs Memorial Society, a member of the Dutchess County Mosquito Control Committee, the committee in charge of the Slabsides Nature Sanctuary, West Park, New York, and the Hyde Park Shade Tree Commission.

Following retirement, Dr. Adams and his wife remained in Hyde Park where they continued their interests in natural history and preservation. Because of his failing health, they moved to Cary, North Carolina in 1986, to be close to one of their children. Dr. Adams is survived by his wife, Ruth Dudgeon Adams; two sons, Gordon D. Adams and Donald W. Adams; one daughter, Carolyn Adams Garcia; and ten grandchildren.

Edward H. Glass, George A. Schaefers, Paul J. Chapman