

Glenn Wiggins — Curator Emeritus of Entomology at the Royal Ontario Museum, and Professor Emeritus in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Toronto — died in his sleep on 7 July 2013.

Glenn began his career at the ROM in 1952 and was cross appointed with the University of Toronto Zoology Department beginning in 1968. His research, which continued unabated since his retirement from the ROM in 1992, dealt with aquatic insects, especially the biosystematics of caddisflies (order Trichoptera) on which he published 4 books and more than 100 articles in scientific journals and books. During his curatorial tenure, he conducted an extensive program of field studies through much of North America, as well as overseas, building for the ROM one



**Glenn Blakely Wiggins
(1927-2013)**

of the major research collections of Trichoptera in the world. He was also actively engaged in the educational outreach programs of the Museum through organization of numerous public lectures and gallery displays. Permanent exhibits of live insects and recordings of insect songs were introduced into the Museum in a new Gallery of Arthropods, which he initiated in the 1970s. He was instrumental in the establishment of two new curatorial departments in the Museum – Botany in 1969 and Invertebrate Zoology in 1979. In 1968 he organized a successful application to the National Research Council of Canada for a Negotiated Development Grant to establish a new laboratory of analytical and molecular systematics in the Museum. Over the years he supervised four MSc students, eight PhD students and four post-doctoral fellows.

In 1988-1991 he served on the NSERC Grant Selection Committee for Evolution and Ecology. He presented numerous invitational lectures on aquatic entomology at various professional conferences and universities, and was a visiting professor conducting field courses in aquatic entomology at biological stations of several universities.

Glenn was an elected member of the Governing Board of the Entomological Society of Canada from 1979 to 1983, and served as President of that Society in 1981-82. He was a founding member of the Society's Biological Survey of Canada (Terrestrial Arthropods), serving on the Scientific Committee of the Survey from 1976 to 1991. As President of the ESC, he became a member of the Biological Council of Canada in 1981 and was elected Vice-President, remaining on the BCC until 1985. He was appointed a Fellow of the ESC in 1982 for major contributions to Entomology. He received the 1992 Gold Medal of the ESC for outstanding achievement. In 2006 he was elected an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of Ontario.

In terms of his scientific legacy, Glenn will be best remembered for his studies of larval caddisflies, which were beautifully summarized in his books *Larvae of the North American caddisfly genera (Trichoptera)* and *Caddisflies: the underwater architects*. Glenn's last publication — *Biological notes on an old farm: exploring common things in the kingdoms of life* — encourages us to stop and look at the smaller organisms such as plants, fungi, insects and bacteria, which play important roles in sustaining life on Earth. This book received the Silver Medal for science in the Independent Publisher Book Awards, 2010.

Glenn established an endowment fund to support entomological research at the ROM — especially that focusing on Trichoptera including fieldwork, curation and laboratory study of the collections, and all aspects of both scientific and interpretive publications. Donations in his memory may be sent to: ROM Foundation, “Wiggins Entomology Trust Fund”, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2C6. Phone 416-586-8012, www.rom.on.ca/support-us

Glenn Wiggins was truly a giant in his field as evinced by the eight caddisfly species named in his honour by colleagues throughout the world. He will be sorely missed.

References

- Wiggins, G.B. 1996. Larvae of the North American caddisfly genera (Trichoptera). 2nd Ed. University of Toronto Press, Toronto.
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