

Alf Arthur (1924-2005)

Alf Arthur died in Saskatoon on 9 March 2005, six days before his 81st birthday. He is survived by his wife, Betty, six children, 15 grandchildren and a great granddaughter.

Alf was born on the family farm near Knowlton, south-eastern Quebec, 15 March 1924, to Fred and Grace Arthur. As a young child he developed an interest in butterflies, killing and pressing them in the thick, absorbent pages of his ABC book. He continued his fascination for things entomological by studying at Macdonald College (McGill) (BSA, 1949), Michigan State (MSc, 1951), and Ohio State (PhD, 1956). From 1947 to 1972, Alf worked at the Dominion Parasite Laboratory in Belleville, Ontario, initially as a summer student, then as a research scientist. During this period, Alf described the immature stages and habits of several parasitoids of forest pests. He also investigated host-parasitoid relationships, specifically the importance of associative learning and the influence of kairomones on host acceptance and oviposition responses by the ichneumonid, *Itoplectis conquisitor*, which uses the prepupal/pupal stages of a wide range of exposed and semi-exposed Lepidoptera.



When the Belleville lab closed in 1972, Alf was transferred to the Canada Agriculture Research Station on the University of Saskatchewan campus, Saskatoon. Here he continued his work on host-parasitoid interactions, but now focused on the parasitoids of bertha armyworm (*Mamestra configurata*) and other oilseed crop pests. In addition, he examined the potential of *Bacillus thuringiensis* as a microbial control agent against these pests. As a result of his studies, the European braconid wasp, *Microplitis mediator*, was released in Alberta and Saskatchewan in the 1990s to enhance the management of bertha armyworm.

By his retirement in March, 1989, Alf had published more than 40 refereed papers and some 50 reports and other articles. In addition he acquired two pheromone patents. As an indication of his standing, two species have been named in his honour: a sunflower moth, *Cochylis arthuri* Dang 1984 and its braconid parasitoid *Bassus arthurellus* Sharkey 1985.

Alf was an avid collector, not only of insects, but also of rocks and stamps. He was especially interested in stamps portraying insects, accumulating some 4000 of these, including more than 2000 featuring Lepidoptera.

— Cedric Gillott, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan