

L Laurent LeSage, a research scientist at the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes (CNC) since 1979, died on 2 May 2015 at the age of 69 following a battle with cancer. He leaves behind two daughters, six brothers and one sister, in addition to several nephews, nieces and many friends.

For his MSc thesis at the University of Montreal, Laurent studied the biology of species in the beetle family Elmidae. For his PhD his interests switched to chironomid flies as he focused on the study of the taxonomy and ecology of *Cricotopus* species from Salem Creek Ontario. He graduated with his PhD from the University of Waterloo in 1979. He spent the rest of his career at the CNC, where he dedicated most of his time studying adults and larvae of economically important leaf beetles (family Chrysomelidae).

His research contributions were both numerous and important. These include 87 articles in scientific journals, 14 book chapters and 2 books/monographs. Most of Laurent's publications focused on the taxonomy and ecology of beetles (including Carabidae, Chrysomelidae, Coccinellidae, Curculionidae, Dryopidae, Elmidae, and Megalopodidae) although he also authored several papers on other insect groups such as Diptera (Chironomidae, Tipulidae, Ptychopteridae, and Trichoceridae), Plecoptera (Nemouridae) and Neuroptera (Hemerobiidae). His passion for invertebrates did not stop at insects though, as he published, along with collaborators, new data on the fauna of Arachnida: Opiliones, Arachnida: Araneae (Salticidae, Theridiidae, Araneidae, and Linyphiidae), and Oligochaeta: Lumbriculida and Diplopoda.

Through his love for field collecting, Laurent helped the CNC develop a vast and diverse collection of beetle immature stages. This valuable collection, preserved in ethanol, expanded into 16 cabinets containing beetle larvae and pupae (often with their associated adults) from all taxonomic groups. He also accumulated a massive collection of samples he obtained in the area of his home at Aylmer, Quebec, using many trapping and field techniques, seemingly on a daily basis and in every accessible habitat.

Over the years, Laurent held memberships in the Entomological Society of Canada, Entomological Society of Ontario, Association des Entomologistes Amateurs du Québec, Biological Survey of Canada and the Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections. He was also a founding member of the Montreal Insectarium and of the Insectarium of Newfoundland.

Laurent's colourful personality will be missed by his family, friends and colleagues.

P. Bouchard, A. E. Davies, K. Savard
CNC, Ottawa



**Laurent LeSage
(1946-2015)**



K. Bolte

Laurent spent a large part of his career working towards a revision of North American flea beetles in the genus *Altica*. *Altica litigata* Fall, 1910 is a native species found only in Ontario in Canada.