

David Harvey Pengelly (1922-2004)

David Harvey Pengelly passed away in his 83rd year on 31 October 2004. Professor Pengelly was born on 22 March 1922 in Red Deer, Alberta and raised on the family homestead near Delburne. On completing his high school, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force and trained as a pilot. In 1941, he was sent to England where he joined a Royal Air Force squadron and did his tour of operations on torpedo Bristol Beaufighters, after which he served as an instructor on Mosquito aircraft at an Operational Training Unit in Nova Scotia. He received his BSc (1950) at the University of Alberta, his MSc (Agr.) from the University of Toronto (1952) and his PhD in entomology (1955) from Cornell University. He went straight from Cornell to a faculty position in the Ontario Agricultural College, where he remained until his retirement from the Department of Environmental Biology in 1982.



Professor Pengelly, known affectionately as "D.H." to his students, had an enormous influence on Canadian entomology, and a remarkable number of today's professional entomologists were first "turned on" to the discipline through his undergraduate courses. His general entomology course (Natural History of Insects) was immensely popular, and a core course for hundreds of students a year. He not only designed a fine course and an innovative and effective system for laboratory teaching, he was also entirely devoted to his students at all levels. When I took his first course as an undergraduate student he was offering five labs a week for two semesters, and he did not leave the laboratory teaching to teaching assistants. Professor Pengelly was always there, always personable and always ready with a great story or identification tip. I am not sure if he really got to know all of the hundreds of students he taught each year, but I do know that he made every student feel recognized and important. That personal approach, combined with the intrinsically interesting subject area, brought many students into the field of entomology.

Those students who finished his introductory entomology course brimming with enthusiasm for insect diversity usually went on and took Dave's fourth year taxonomy course, the famous (infamous?) "collection course". In those days, his insect taxonomy course was also a requirement for graduate students in entomology, so the students in that course were a mixture of graduate students and extremely keen undergraduates. The cohorts of students Dave shepherded through the collection course shared the excitement of discovery (not to mention sharing hundreds of hours in the lab) and often emerged both as lifelong friends and colleagues in the entomological community.

Professor Pengelly had relatively few graduate students, but those of us lucky enough to work with him have fond memories of the experience. He always had time to talk, and always had a wise word. His standards were high, not only for scientific writing but also for professional ethics. He set high standards for those with whom he worked, and he also encouraged his

students to remain generalists despite the need to specialize in order to complete a successful graduate degree. It is part of his legacy that Guelph entomology graduates are widely recognized for their familiarity with insects as a whole, and not just their particular research groups.

Dave contributed immensely to the Entomological Society of Ontario, and during the 16 years he served as Secretary- Treasurer of the Society he handled virtually all of the Society's business, personally taking care of everything from stuffing envelopes to depositing cheques. This was a huge task, a fact appreciated by those of us who have since struggled to carry out either the Treasurer's OR Secretary's duties for relatively short periods during the years since D.H. retired in 1982.

One of his most lasting contributions to the Society, and entomology as a whole, was his maintenance and development of the collection of insect specimens and associated literature at University of Guelph. The University of Guelph Insect Collection had its start as the Entomological Society of Ontario collection and grew into a world-class resource under Professor Pengelly's care. A remarkable number of specimens in the collection, especially specimens of rare species, were collected and identified by Dave Pengelly himself. One of Dave's great interests throughout his career was the biology of leafcutter bees, and one of his formative experiences as an entomologist was to spend a summer, with his family, studying leafcutter bees and their relation to alfalfa seed set on the Warder Ranch near Dyer's Bay, Ontario in the 1950s. He continued working with leafcutter bees as alfalfa pollinators after he retired to a farm near Erickson, Manitoba.

The passing of Professor Pengelly marks the end of an era in Canadian entomology, but his powerful influence lives on in the attitudes, knowledge and careers of countless students.

— Steve Marshall, Guelph, Ontario Reprinted from the *Newsletter of the Entomological Society of Ontario*