

DONALD DE LEON

1902-1966

Dr. Donald De Leon died 8 June 1966 after a short illness in the Mountain Home Veterans Hospital at Johnson City, Tennessee. Dr. De Leon is survived by his sister, Miss Gertrude (Dee) De Leon, with whom he had lived during the last years of his life "in a cabin on the creek" in the mountains above Erwin, Tennessee. He is buried in the Mountain Home Veterans Cemetery.

Don, as he was known to co-workers and friends, was born in Milford, Connecticut, of Bertha Canary and Daniel De Leon on 26 September 1902.



There is no record of his early schooling, but he attended Syracuse College of Forestry where he obtained his B.S. in 1926 and M.S. in 1927, University of California, and Cornell University where he obtained his Ph.D. in 1933. After obtaining his doctorate, he spent about a year and a half in post-doctoral studies in France and Germany. During his official professional life, Don held five positions with the USDA, Bureau of Entomology from 1928 to 1950 as an entomologist and two positions with the U. S. Foreign Aid Program in the Philippine Islands from 1950 to 1953 as coconut specialist and foreign administrator. He retired from official duties in 1953 but remained active as a consultant and in

the field of acarology until his death.

Dr. De Leon maintained a wide interest in the field of entomology. Areas in which he worked included the morphology of immature insects, insect transmission of plant viruses, and the taxonomy of Cicadellidae, Scolytidae, and Acarina. Much of the results of his official work is contained in progress, annual, and administratively confidential reports, and so is unavailable for general scientific use. After his retirement, however, Dr. De Leon published 40 papers on the taxonomy, systematics, and zoogeography of mites. These adequately illustrate his energies and abilities. He was a member of the Entomological Society of America, Society of American Foresters, Society of Systematic Zoologists, Coleopterists Society, Pacific Coast Entomological Society, and Florida Entomological Society. He was also a member of the honorary scientific fraternity Sigma Xi. At the time of his death, Don was in the process of completing for publication two manuscripts, one on the plant mites of Trinidad and one on the Ascas of the

Carribbean Area. These manuscripts are presently being edited for publication in the *Florida Entomologist*.

Dr. De Leon's collections of mites, reprints, periodicals, books and pinned insects have been donated to East Tennessee State University at Johnson City, Tennessee. His Acarina types will be deposited in the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Harvard University at Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Don's untimely death has unfortunately removed an intense, critical, analytical, objective mind from the fields of entomology and acarology, but all who knew him will savor the memory of his quick, gently-caustic humor, his sedate, humanistic philosophy, and his warm, congenial attitude toward life.—Martin H. Muma



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