



Photograph by Frank W. Mead at Gainesville, Florida, 1967.

ALVAH PETERSON
(1888-1972)

Alvah Peterson, age 83, an honorary member of The Florida Entomological Society (conferred in 1964) was born at Galesburg, Illinois, on September 13, 1888. He died unexpectedly on September 11, 1972, at University Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Peterson was cremated, and a memorial service was held at First Congregational Church, Columbus, Ohio, on September 15, 1972.

Dr. Peterson received his B.S. in 1911 from Knox College; his M.S. and Ph.D. were obtained in 1913 and 1916 from the University of Illinois. From 1916-1925 he was an Associate Professor in the Department of Entomology, Rutgers University. He served as a Senior Entomologist in Fruit Insect Investigations, Bureau of Entomology, USDA, from 1925-1928. His 30 years service as an Entomology Professor at Ohio State University extended from 1928 to 1958. Upon retirement he was made an Emeritus Professor, and he shared offices on the third floor of the Botany & Zoology Building with Emeritus Professors D. M. DeLong and J. N. Knull. In 1970 Ohio State awarded Dr. Peterson an honorary doctoral degree. He served as consultant or visiting professor at the Universities of Arizona, Florida, Michigan State, Minnesota, and Oregon State.

From September 19, 1958 to May 8, 1960, Dr. Peterson served as an Entomologist with the State Plant Board of Florida, Gainesville (now Division of Plant Industry). His collecting, identifications, and life history studies greatly strengthened the collection of immature insects at the Florida State Collection of Arthropods. It was about this time that his work on insect eggs began in earnest, resulting in numerous, profusely illustrated articles, most of which were published in *The Florida Entomologist*. He received many awards and honors for his work on eggs. This was the third area in which he did pioneering work, the first area being his work upon parasites used to control insect pests feeding upon and destroying orchard fruits, and the second upon immature stages of insects, a field scarcely touched until his pioneer work. He completed approximately 100 publications (the first in 1912) six of which were books. The two volumes on the larvae of insects are considered outstanding pieces of work and are used throughout the world.

Among his many honors were Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate at Knox College; President of The Entomological Society of America in 1949; and the first member of ESA to be elected to honorary life membership in that Society (1965).

He is survived by wife, Helen (née Hoff), at 2039 Collingswood Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43221; 2 sons, Jon, of Great Neck, N. Y., and David, of Seattle, Wash.; 3 grandchildren; sister, Mrs. D. E. Warren, of Oregon, Illinois, and brother, Dr. Evan Peterson, of Burlington, Iowa.

Frank W. Mead

