



DR. JOHN T. CREIGHTON
(1905-1979)

Dr. John T(homas) Creighton died at the University of Florida Medical Center 23 May 1979 following prolonged illness and was buried in Lincolnton, GA. He was born in Orangeburg, SC on 4 August 1905, the son of Alonso and Elizabeth (Harmon) Creighton. He received his BS degree in 1926 and his MS degree in 1929 from the University of Florida and his PhD degree in 1935 from Ohio State University. He also was a student at Clemson Agricultural College in 1922-4 and at Cornell University in 1930. He married Myrtle Beth Cassaway on 3 January 1935. He taught chemistry at Gaines-

ville (FL) High School, 1926-7; was a graduate instructor in entomology at the University of Florida, 1927-9; Instructor, Department of Entomology, 1929-31; Assistant Professor, 1931-7, and Professor and Chairman of the Department of Entomology, 1937-65. Dr. Creighton became a member of the Graduate Faculty at the University of Florida on 16 January 1951. During his administration the first PhD degree in entomology was awarded on 11 June 1962. (The PhD in Entomology was approved 6 November 1958 by the Graduate Council and was approved by the University Senate on 20 November 1958 and by the Board of Control (now Board of Regents) on 12 December 1958. On 28 September 1967 the name of the major was changed from Entomology to Entomology and Nematology.) During his career at the University of Florida, Dr. Creighton served as faculty committee chairman for 21 MA, 6 MSA, 13 MS, and 7 PhD degrees.

Dr. Creighton retired 30 September 1969 and continued to reside with his wife at their home in Gainesville until the time of his death. He served as a field agent for the Bureau of Entomology, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1930; technical advisor, (U. S.) Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, 1938, consulting advisor, 1939; head of the pest control division, University of Florida, 1932-65; entomology research consultant, Stanco, Inc., 1945-8, Velsicol Corporation, 1946-9, Micronizer Corporation, 1947, Dow Chemical Company, 1947-8, Hercules Powder Company, 1947-8, Carbide & Chemical Company, 1946-7, Max Weedels Tobacco Company and American Sumatra Tobacco Company, 1948-9, Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, Costa Rica, 1949-50, Standard Oil Company (NJ), New York City, Central America, and Esso Standard Oil Company, Central America, 1948-9; member, Florida Structural Pest Control Board (Chairman, 1947-51); head, entomological advisory group and director of agricultural research, Foreign Operations Administration, Special Technical and Economic Mission to Thailand, sponsored by the (U. S.) Economic Cooperation Administration (Dr. Creighton organized the department of entomology at the national university in Bangkok.); member, American Association of Economic Entomology (Chairman, section on teaching, 1939, Vice President, 1940, 1949, member, committee on popular entomology education, 1942; member, Cotton States Branch, secretary-treasurer, section executive committee, 1939-49, chairman, committee on placement, 1941, chairman, committee on graduate work, 1942, chairman, publications committee, 1941-2, President, 1949-50); Entomological Society of America, Florida Entomological Society (Secretary, 1930), Florida Beekeepers Association, Florida Anti-Mosquito Association, Southern Shade Tree Association (President, 1942), National Shade Tree Conference (member, Board of Governors, 1942-3), Association of Southern Agricultural Workers (member, Executive Committee, 1949-50), Newell Entomological Society (organizer, faculty advisor, honorary member), Florida Pest Control Association (advisor and parliamentarian, 1945-50, honorary member), American Association for the Advancement of Science, Florida State Horticultural Society, Florida Soil Science Society, Sigma Xi, and Phi Sigma. He was a life-long Democrat, a Mason, a Methodist, and a member of the Rotary Club of Bangkok, Thailand. During his career he was author of 38 scientific publications.

Dr. Creighton took special pride in helping the graduates of his department find jobs in the field of entomology. He organized at the University of

Florida in 1937 the first placement service for student employment. He perhaps will be best remembered for his contribution to the field of structural pest control. He promoted organization of the Florida Pest Control Association, drafted vital legislation concerning structural pest control (Florida Structural Pest Control Act, 1947) and guided it through the Florida Legislature, established the standards and wrote the first examinations for certified structural pest control operators in Florida, developed a strong curriculum of courses at the University of Florida relative to structural pest control, and is generally recognized as the person most responsible for the reputation of a high standard of ethics and professional competency which the field of structural pest control enjoys in Florida today.

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Contribution No. 467, Bureau of Entomology, Division of Plant Industry, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Gainesville, FL 32602.

