

OBITUARY

Donald P. Taylor
1931-1988

Donald P. Taylor, former Professor of Nematology at the University of Illinois and moving force in the creation of the Society of Nematologists, died of a heart attack 11 June 1988. Born 23 September 1931, Don is survived by his wife, Carol, and sons Donald P., Jr., and Robert W. He was one of the first nematologists to recognize the need to form an independent society for the discipline.

According to W. F. Mai and R. E. Mot-singer in *Vistas on Nematology* (1987), Don "became the leader and spokesman for the group which planned and mapped strategies for the formation of the Society of Nematologists." He was a charter member of the society which he served as secretary for nearly 10 years and vice president for 2 years. In 1967, the editors of the Society Newsletter recognized Don for exceptional service to nematology (Vol. 13, No. 4). He was active in the American Phytopathological Society and the Helminthological Society of Washington.

Don received an A.B. in Botany at Dartmouth University in 1954, M.S. in Plant Pathology at the University of Maryland in 1956, and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota in 1960. During his college career, Don was awarded the Rutas Choate Scholar, Charles Botany Prize, Grimes Prize, and A.B. degree Cum Laude with highest distinction in Botany at Dartmouth. In addition, he was a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Gamma Sigma Delta, Pi Alpha Xi, and Sigma Xi honor societies.

After serving as Assistant Professor of Nematology in the Department of Botany

and Plant Pathology at Minnesota for a year, he moved to the University of Illinois, Department of Plant Pathology in 1961 where he was promoted to Associate and Full Professor in a short 8-year period. During this phase of intense activity, Don coauthored with W. R. Jenkins *Plant Nematology*, the first comprehensive textbook in the discipline and a standard text in nematology for many years. He trained many students and authored or coauthored more than 60 papers on nematode biology, taxonomy, and pathology. His research program at the University of Illinois was consistently in the forefront of modern nematology. He was one of the first to recognize the importance of nematode-nematode interrelations and races in root-knot nematodes. Don also made important contributions in the areas of nematode behavior, nematode-fungal interrelations, and biological control. Don foresaw the importance of the soybean cyst nematode to midwest American agriculture. Together with D. I. Edwards, he established a satellite research program in quarantine greenhouse facilities hundreds of miles from the then closest known infestation. This foresight expedited on-campus research on the biology, host range, and the interrelationship between this nematode with other pathogens—knowledge important to developing present-day control systems.

Don was an adventurer. After experiencing international agriculture firsthand in India, Lebanon, Jamaica, Canada, and Europe, he resigned from the University

of Illinois in September 1970, in order to enter international agriculture as Nematologist in the Division of Plant Pathology-Nematology, East African Agriculture and Forestry Research Organization, at Muguga, Kenya. It was an attempt, he told close friends, to revitalize himself and his research program and to add a new dimension to his career. He also published the first systematic work on plant-parasitic nematodes in Lebanon.

In 1973 Don left Kenya to join the Laboratoire de Nématologie (ORSTOM), Dakar, Senegal, where he worked until 1978 on root-knot nematodes and various Heteroderinae. He published 17 articles during this time, all characterized by his precision in observation and writing. He was one of the main promoters of the establishment of the *Revue de Nématologie*, created by M. Luc and G. Merny, and a

strong supporter and advisor to the journal.

Don worked as a plant-protection consultant in New York for a number of years after returning to the United States. He made a number of attempts to reenter nematology but had been out of the mainstream too long. Don was an ambitious, highly dynamic and intelligent individual, able to converse on many subjects outside the boundaries of nematology. Although Don never received the broad professional recognition he deserved for his accomplishments, those who knew him well profited from the relationship and will remember him for what he was—an excellent scientist, adventurer, and a friend.

Richard A. Sikora
Dale Edwards
Islam Siddiqui
Casper Netscher