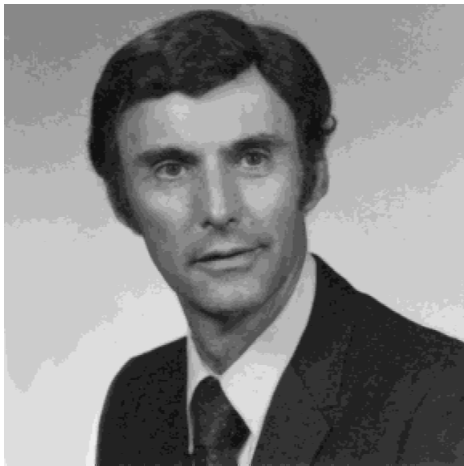


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John M. Ferris January 19, 2000



Dr. John M. Ferris

Nematologist John M. Ferris died Wednesday, January 19, 2000, in West Lafayette, Indiana, following a short illness. He was a professor in the Department of Entomology at Purdue University. Dr. Ferris was born in Pelham, New York, and following graduation from Freeport High School, Freeport, New York, he served two years in the U.S. Army. He then entered Cornell University where he received a B.S. in Biochemistry in 1951 and a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in 1956, under the direction of W. F. Mai. He spent two years at the Illinois Natural History Survey working with diseases of shade trees, and joined the Purdue faculty of the Entomology Department in 1958 as an assistant professor with a specialty in nematology.

His responsibilities at Purdue included teaching principles of nematology to undergraduate and graduate students; nematode extension activities for the entire state, which included diagnosis and control recommendations; research on resistance genes for soybean cyst nematodes (SCN), most recently the development of the patented SCN resistant soybean line, CystX; and research on molecular methods for constructing

nematode phylogenies of plant-parasitic cyst nematodes. Earlier research efforts resulted in many publications in ecology of soil, fresh-water, and plant-parasitic nematodes; ecosystem research; and IPM.

Dr. Ferris was an early editor of the *Nematology News Letter* during the formative years of the Society of Nematologists (SON). He continued his activity in the Society for the rest of his life, serving as treasurer, vice-president, and president (1980–81). In recent years he served as a member or chairman of many SON committees. In 1995 he was made a Fellow of SON. He was also a member of the American Phytopathological Society, the Entomological Society of America, the Hennig Society, AAAS, Indiana Academy of Science, Sigma Xi, Gamma Sigma Delta, and an honorary member of Tomahawk, a student organization. He was a member and officer for several years of the Inter-Society Consortium for Plant Protection (ISCPP), and was active for many years in the North Central Regional Nematode Projects and discussion groups. He was a member of two onsite National Science Foundation review panels to evaluate international aid research projects in nematology, and was chairman of one of these. For many years he was chairman of the Joint Task Force Group for Nematodes on Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Waste Water. He was a fellow of the Indiana Academy of Science and a founding fellow of the Hennig Society. He served for many years as a faculty fellow of Earhart Hall at Purdue.

His wife, Virginia R. Ferris, was also his professional colleague in nematology, and she survives. He is survived also by two children, Jeffrey A. Ferris of San Diego, California, and Susan Ferris Wyderko of Rockville, Maryland; a sister, Marjorie G. Ferris, Wilton, Connecticut; and three grandchildren.

Prepared by : Virginia R. Ferris, Professor,
Department of Entomology