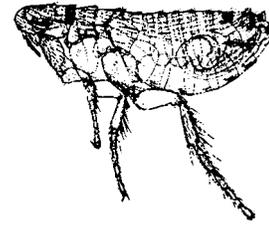


# *flea*

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# NEWS

# 51



Department of Entomology

Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011

## Table of Contents

Obituaries.....	583
Miscellanea.....	588
Literature.....	589

**FLEA NEWS** is a biannual newsletter devoted to matters involving insects belonging to the order Siphonaptera (fleas) and related subjects. It is compiled and distributed free of charge by Robert E. Lewis (relewis@iastate.edu) with the support of the Department of Entomology at Iowa State University, Ames, IA, and a grant in aid from **Sandoz Animal Health**, based in Des Plaines, IL. It is mainly bibliographic in nature. Many of the sources are abstracting journals and title pages and not all citations have been checked for completeness or accuracy. Additional information will be provided upon written or e-mail request. Further, recipients are urged to contribute items of interest to the profession for inclusion herein.

This newsletter is now available in electronic format. The preferred method of accessing the electronic version is through the WorldWide Web at the following Universal Resource Locator: <http://www.ent.iastate.edu/FleaNews/AboutFleaNews.html> or through either Gopher or anonymous FTP:

[gopher.ent.iastate.edu](mailto:gopher.ent.iastate.edu) in the "Publications" directory. Electronic versions are available for No. 46, July, 1993; No. 47, December, 1993; No. 48, July, 1994; No. 49, December, 1994; No 50, June, 1995 and this number.

The opinions and assertions contained herein are the private ones of the authors and are not to be construed as official or as reflecting the views of the Department of Entomology, Iowa State University or Sandoz Animal Health.

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Shortly after mailing Flea News 50 I was informed of the death of Dr. George Dunnet by D. K. Mardon. Following is an obituary which I requested from Mr. Mardon, with a few minor additions and alterations.

### **George MacKenzie Dunnet**

19-April-1928 \* 11-September-1995

George Dunnet was born in Caithness, the most northerly county of mainland Scotland. He was educated in Aberdeenshire and at Aberdeen University where he earned a first class honours degree in 1949 and a doctorate in 1952, and where, later, most of his career would be based. After a brief spell at the Bureau of Animal Populations in Oxford and his marriage to Margaret Henderson Thompson, he went to Australia to

work as a Research Officer for the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) during the period 1953-1958. He returned to Aberdeen University to a post as Lecturer and to be in charge of the newly established Culterty Field Station at Newburgh, a few miles north of Aberdeen. As Director of this rural outpost of the University's Department of Natural History, as it was then known, George led the development of a burgeoning and ongoing programme of ecological research in the nearby Ythan estuary and Sands of Forvie National Nature Reserve. The statistics of this unit are impressive, with nearly 100 post-graduate students, many from overseas, having gained higher degrees there over 30 years and with many postdoctoral research projects. George also carried out research for DSIR in New Zealand during 1968-1969. He was promoted successively to Senior Lecturer, Professor, Regius Professor of Natural History and Head of Department, and eventually became Dean of the Faculty of Science. Several fellowships and honours were awarded to George from 1970 to 1994, and a D.Sc. in 1984. From the early 1970's he became increasingly involved in a number of committees including some from British government agencies too numerous to list here. This work continued until his untimely death from a stroke in Copenhagen.

George developed an interest in fleas while a student at Aberdeen and began publishing papers in 1950. However, it was his work in Australia that gave him his outstanding opportunity to develop and utilize this interest. Working on indigenous mammals in several parts of the country brought him into contact with host animals and their fleas and also with many other wildlife biologists with

similar contacts. He both collected fleas himself and stimulated others to do likewise, coordinating the process to result in a substantial amount of material ultimately destined for the Australian National Insect Collection or some of the state museums. Finding that identification was less than simple and dependent on a number of scattered publications he resolved to write a unifying paper to collate what was known about the fleas of Australia. Furthermore, many new species were being discovered which required description. The project was to be completed after George returned to Scotland.

George was primarily an ornithologist, although in Australia and New Zealand he worked on mammals. Being Director of Culterty left little time for research on fleas. He decided that completion of the Australian project needed a research assistant and hired me [D.K.M.] for this post. I joined him in his laboratory in Culterty in September of 1969, cutting my pulicologist's teeth, so to speak, on some endemic stick-tight fleas. New species were described by us or in collaboration with other colleagues; George Holland, Bob Traub and Frans Smit. Our joint work culminated in the publication of the *Monograph of Australian Fleas* in Australia in 1974, nearly twenty years after George conceived the idea.

During this period Dr. Miriam Rothschild suggested that I might contribute to the *Illustrated Catalogue of the Rothschild Collection of Fleas* with a volume on the Pygiopsyllidae. To enable this work to be carried out in the University Zoology Department (now renamed), George obtained a research grant from the Science Research Council that enabled me to accept Dr. Rothschild's offer. By then he was much occupied with University

and outside commit-tee business, but retained his interest in fleas, utilising them for teaching part of a Biogeography course. The research grant and my employment as a flea taxonomist ended on 31-December-1977, but our last collabor-ative project was a rewrite of the chapter on fleas in the second edition of the CSIRO textbook *The Insects of Australia*, 1991. This proved to be his last publication on fleas.

The projects with which George was associated resulted in the description of fourteen new species and subspecies and three new genera of fleas. One species was named after him. Following are the taxa that he authored or co-authored.

*Parapsyllus cardinis* Dunnet  
*Glaciopsyllus antarcticus* Smit & Dunnet  
*Echidnophaga calabyi* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Echidnophaga octotricha* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Echidnophaga eyrei* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Xenopsylla australiaca* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Lycopsylla lasiorhini* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Wurunjerria warnekei* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Pygiopsylla tunneyi* Mardon & Dunnet  
*Coorilla longictena* Dunnet & Mardon  
*Stephanocircus harrisoni* Traub & Dunnet  
*Stephanocircus g. greeni* Traub & Dunnet  
*Stephanocircus g. tasmanica* T. & D.  
*Stephanocircus domrowi* Traub & Dunnet

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A revision of the 'group A' species of Australian *Pygiopsylla* Rothschild, 1906 (Siphon-aptera: Pygiopsyllidae). J. Aust. Entomol. Soc. 11: 69-77 (1972). With D. K. Mardon.

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Dr. Thomas Schwan of the Rocky Mountain Laboratory, Hamilton, MT, recently informed me of the passing of Dr. William Jellison, who was associated with that laboratory for most of his professional career. Following is an obituary based upon a short biography which I prepared a few years back for inclusion in *A Catalogue of Siphonaptera of North America north of Mexico*. It has been slightly modified in collaboration with Dr. Robert Traub.

### **William Livingston Jellison**

28-January-1906 \* 7-November-1995

William L. Jellison was born in Kalispel, Flathead County, Montana. He received the B.S. from the University of Montana, Bozeman, in 1929, and took a position as Bacteriologist on the staff of the United States Public Health Service, Rocky Mountain Laboratory, at Hamilton, Montana. In 1931 his title was changed to Parasitologist, a title he retained until his retirement in 1960. He earned the M.S. in 1934 and the Ph.D. degree in 1940, both from the University of

Minnesota at Minneapolis-St. Paul. His doctoral dissertation was titled *Biological studies on the faunae of nests of birds and rodents in relation to disease of animals and man*. He also pursued graduate and postdoctoral studies at Stanford, Johns Hopkins, Harvard and Duke Universities. As a commissioned officer, first in the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) from 1941 to 1946, and later in the United States Army Reserve from 1955 to 1961, Jellison served on the USPHS mission to the Yunnan-Burma railroad (1941-1942); was an United States Army Malaria Control Officer in Assam, India (1942-1943); and served as a research associate with the United States Typhus Commission in Burma (1945); the Korean Hemorrhagic Fever Commission, United States Army, in Seoul, Korea (1953); and with the Pan-American Sanitary Bureau, Zoonosis Laboratory, Azul, Argentina (1960). In 1980 he received an honorary D.Sc. from Montana State University, and was awarded the Hoogstraal Award in 1991 by the American Committee of Medical Entomologists of the American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene.

Jellison was an internationally renowned parasitologist and many of his musings on epidemiology, evolution and biogeography have since been shown to be remarkably sagacious. He was active in a number of professional societies and authored or co-authored in excess of 150 scientific papers, three books and several bulletins dealing with arthropods of medical importance and/or the zoonoses transmitted by them. Although he authored or co-authored four flea taxa, his most important contributions to our knowledge of the North American flea fauna were the Indexes to the Literature of Siphonaptera of North

America, a co-authored series published in 1942, 1953 and 1967.

Jellison and his wife Gretchen, who predeceased him by a few months, lived in retirement in Hamilton, Montana, just a few blocks from the Rocky Mountain Laboratory. Mrs. Jellison was a talented artist and assisted her husband by illustrating some of his many publications. Following are the four flea taxa described by him.

*Thrassis pandorae* Jellison

*Opisocrostitis tuberculatus cynomuris* Jellison

*Conorhinopsylla nidicola* Jellison

*Mioctenopsylla traubi* Holland & Jellison

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### Miscellanea

**The National Pest Control Association, Inc.** recently announced the release of a computer based "Flea Tutorial". Developed by Thomas R. Fasulo and Philip G. Koehler, it is a self-training program on fleas. It is an easy to use instructional method for flea identification (?) as well as dealing with

flea biology, habits and control. It is also said to be user friendly. It includes the following features: Keyboard and/or mouse driven; detailed color graphics and photographs, including printing capability.

#### System Requirements

A 8088 (XT), 80386 or 80486 MS-DOS (versions 3.1 or higher) or MS-DOS or IBM compatible computer with at least 640KB of RAM installed and 3.8MB of storage on a hard drive and VGA monitor and card. Printing requires a laser jet printer. Order No. 3005 on 3.5" disk, No. 3006 on 5.25" disk. Both versions are \$60.00 plus shipping and handling.

They also handle a number of Books, Business Aids, Pamphlets, Slides and Videos, as well as other Computer Programs.

Orders or inquiries should be directed to:

N.P.C.A. Resource Center  
8100 Oak Street  
Dunn Loring, VA 22027  
(800) 678 6722  
Fax (703) 573 4116

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## HAPPY HOLIDAYS