



EDWIN H. BRYAN, JR.  
1898-1985

# INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENTOMOLOGY

International Journal of Entomology Vol. 27, no. 4: 295–296

30 December 1985

Published by Department of Entomology, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. Editorial committee: Neal L. Evenhuis (Senior Editor), JoAnn M. Tenorio (Consulting Editor), F.J. Radvosky (Managing Editor), S. Asahina, J.F.G. Clarke, K.C. Emerson, R.C. Fennah, D.E. Hardy, R.A. Harrison, J. Lawrence, H. Levi, T.C. Maa, J. Medler, C.D. Michener, W.W. Moss, C.W. Sabrosky, J.J.H. Szent-Ivany, I.W.B. Thornton, J. van der Vecht, E.C. Zimmerman. Devoted to original research on all terrestrial arthropods. Zoogeographic scope is worldwide, with special emphasis on the Pacific Basin and bordering land masses.

© 1985 by the Bishop Museum

## EDWIN H. BRYAN, JR. (1898–1985)

Edwin H. Bryan, Jr. worked in so many different fields and had such a multifaceted career that his considerable entomological contributions have been somewhat overshadowed by other interests. He was born in Philadelphia but grew up in the western U.S., particularly in California. Shortly after graduating from high school in Redlands, he moved to Honolulu and enrolled in the College of Hawaii (1916), where he received his B.S. degree in general science in 1920. He earned the Bachelor of Philosophy at Yale in 1921 and the M.S. in entomology from the University of Hawaii in 1924. He taught entomology at the University of Hawaii during the period 1925–29.

Mr. Bryan began his career at the Bishop Museum in 1919, with the assignment of caring for the insect collection. Over the succeeding years, he held almost every conceivable position in the Museum, including that of acting director at various times amounting to a number of years in the aggregate. From 1927 to 1941 (when he took leave of absence to go on active duty in the U.S. Army—he served in both world wars) and from 1950 to 1968, he was the Curator of Collections. In 1968 he was named the first Brigham Fellow, a title that he held for the remainder of his life.

Mr. Bryan cared for the Museum's entomological collections for several decades. He received instruction in the preparation and care of specimens from Otto H. Swezey of the Hawaiian Sugar Planter's Association, who had been Honorary Curator of insects at the Museum since 1906. Mr. Bryan was thus an important link between the early development of entomology in Hawai'i and its later flourishing.

Mr. Bryan's publications were extraordinarily numerous and diverse, and they include a number of significant entomological works: "Insects of Hawaii, Johnston and Wake Islands" (1926), "A review of Hawaiian Diptera with descriptions of new species" (1934, based on his M.S. thesis), "Key to Hawaiian Drosophilidae and descriptions of new species" (1938), "Insects We See in Hawaii" (1940, a book directed at young people), and others.

After World War II, Mr. Bryan realized a personal goal of many years when he founded and managed the Pacific Scientific Information Center (PSIC) as an affiliated organization of the Bishop Museum. For many years, this endeavor was concurrent with his curatorial post at the Museum. The PSIC continued as a primary cartographic repository and data resource for many geographic and other subjects concerning

Hawai'i and the Pacific; in 1984 Bishop Museum incorporated PSIC as the Geography and Map Division under administration of the Library. Among Mr. Bryan's publications during his period as Manager of PSIC are a "Bibliography of Micronesian Entomology" (1948, revised 1949, incorporated in *Insects of Micronesia*, vol. 2, 1955) and the directory "Pacific Entomologists" (1966).

One of Mr. Bryan's outstanding talents was the compilation and organization of information. His interests encompassed such disciplines as astronomy, botany, ornithology, and ethnology, as well as entomology and geography, and he has given us a legacy of Pacific Region information that will continue to be utilized over future decades. Until shortly before his death he continued to be importuned for information by people from all over the world interested in the Pacific.

Mr. Bryan became a member of the Hawaiian Entomological Society in 1919, was President in 1928, and was voted an Honorary Member in 1968. In December of 1983, he was the first recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award. Mr. Bryan was a retiring man and was often embarrassed by fuss and fanfare, but the final honor given to him in entomology was one that he appeared truly to appreciate and to enjoy—an indication of his continued identification with his initial field of scholarly research.

—Frank J. Radovsky, Bishop Museum, Honolulu