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A Bio-Bibliography of Entomologist Frank Montgomery Hull (1901–1982)

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Abstract
A brief biography is given for Mississippi entomologist Frank Montgomery Hull, and his 159 published works are listed including, where possible, accurate dates of publication, especially for those works that proposed new taxa.

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Frank Montgomery Hull (1901–1982) (Fig. 1) was a well-known Mississippi entomologist who specialized in the taxonomy of Diptera, especially Syrphidae, and produced world monographs for Asilidae and Bombyliidae. He was the eldest of three children, born on 3 November 1901 in Coahoma, Mississippi to Dabny Hearndon Hull (1874–1959), an electrical engineer from Cleveland, Ohio; and Annie Baldwin (née Montgomery) Hull (1871–1961). From a World War II registration draft card (filled out when he was 39 years of age) we see that he is listed as 5 ft 10 in tall, 140 lbs, with brown hair, brown eyes, and a light complexion. Sometime between 1925 and 1930 he began to sport a moustache (cf. Figs. 4 [without] and 5 [with], which he later shaved off. His Mississippi A. & M. yearbook graduation photo has a poem by him (Senior Class 1922: 60):

> "*I love to talk and talk and talk.*
> *I pull a lot of clever stuff;*
> *My one regret in life is this,*
> *I don't get listened to enough."*

... and the yearbook editors awarded him the "Buggiest Boy" and had this to say about him (Senior Class 1922: 60):

> "A wonderful combination of two phenomenal powers, that of absorbing knowledge and that of catching bugs ... Well liked and well thought of by his classmates and associates, he presents an attractive and whole hearted personality. A specialist in the extreme, he has a brain, eye and hand quick enough to subdue the most elusive insect or the most difficult chemical problem from the first. It is certain that the resident bugs in the vicinity of A. and M. College will offer up a prayer of Thanksgiving for deliverance when Frank goes out into the world with class '22's best wishes for luck in his future endeavors (Fig. 3).

Hull's interest in insects started at 12 years of age (Anonymous 1968) with childhood excursions along the Pearl River bordering Louisiana and Mississippi, and was further encouraged when he won first place at his high school's science fair one year (Webb 1973). After high school, Hull enrolled at Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College [now Mississippi State University] in Starkville, Mississippi, and began his studies in entomology. By his sophomore year he had begun specializing in Diptera, but he also took on summer jobs afield: one in 1920 had him working for the USDA on a Japanese beetle project in Riverton, New Jersey, and another in 1921 had him working for the USDA on sweet potato weevils in southern Texas. The latter area of work and its residents were detailed in a letter to Hull's aunt and published in the *Greenville Weekly Democrat Times* (Anonymous 1921):

Figure 1. Frank Montgomery Hull, photo taken in his office at the University of Mississippi, probably around 1970. Photo: back cover of dust jacket for *Bee Flies of the World.*

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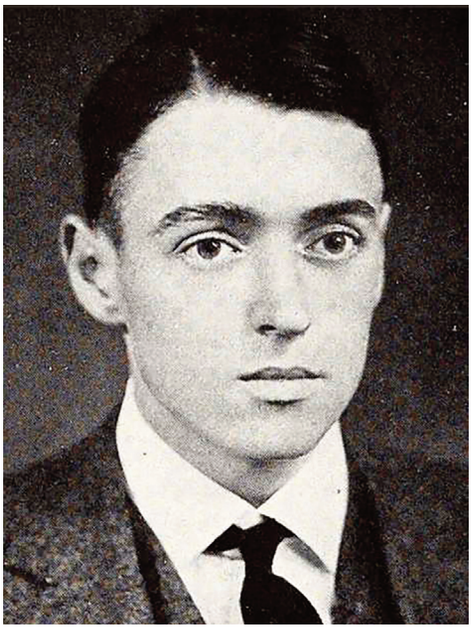

Figure 2. Hull's 1922 graduation portrait, Mississippi A. & M. Photo from college yearbook, *The Reveille*.

Figure 3. Hull, the "Buggiest Boy", in military uniform with insect net. Photo from Mississippi A. & M. yearbook, *The Reveille*.

> "Only yesterday I stood on the southernmost point of American soil looking over to foreign shores, for I had been commissioned to Brownsville, Texas, for further research work. This gave me the opportunity of seeing the Rio Grande, which mainly derives its importance as a border between the United States and Mexico. The cities have street cars like queer looking boats, about one-third the size of Greenville street cars.
>
> "Walking down the principle streets occasionally beholding Spanish senoritas of whose fascination I had heard much, with their characteristic dark eyes and hair, and the singular uniformity of complexion, unlike our fair girls, for the Spanish beauties have no rosy cheeks, but are all of one color in face, and of such soft sounding names as Rosita, Juanita, Lolita, Conchita, etc.
>
> "I think I should soon learn to talk Spanish here. However, what interests me most are the wonderful insect specimens, for bugs are so thick and plentiful down here, of various kinds, that I expect to take back an excellent and rare addition for our college collection. We are now reflecting upon our early return for the opening of the A. and M. where I begin my senior year, and I anticipate the great improvements in our building and facilities, which will be the result of the appreciated and needed legislative appropriation."

Hull graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mississippi Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1922 (Fig. 2) and in 1923 enrolled at The Ohio State University (OSU). His two years at OSU saw him making insect investigations in Iowa and partaking in a dipterological collecting expedition to South Dakota in 1924 (Hull 1925). He graduated with a Master's Degree in 1925 and began work as curator at the Charles R. Connor Museum and instructor of biology and geology at Washington State College [now University] in Pullman, Washington (Fig. 4), taking the spot vacated by Dr. William T. Shaw, who had taken a position at Stanford University (Anonymous 1925). It was during his working in Washington state that Hull met and married (in 1926) Marguerite Chappell (1904–1966), who was a school teacher in Spokane, north of Pullman. Soon after their marriage, Frank and Marguerite moved to New Mexico in 1926 where Hull became an assistant professor and acting state entomologist at New Mexico State College [now University] in Las Cruces, New Mexico. In their 40 years of marriage, they had three children: Martha Cecile "Coquilla" Hull (1928–1991); Frank Montgomery Hull, Jr. (living); and Clovis Malcolm Siller Hull (1948–1988).

With funding from the Texas State legislature, Hull and Marguerite moved again, this time in in 1927, to Brazos, Texas, where their first child, Martha, was born the following year. Hull was employed there researching cotton root rot for the Texas A. & M. Experimental Station. That job lasted only a couple of years before he made his final move in July 1930 to Biloxi, Mississippi to become professor of biology at the University of Mississippi (Figs. 5, 6).

Hull was chair of the department from 1930–1952 and maintained his professorship there until his retirement from the university in 1971. But not before attending summer classes at Woods Hole Marine Biological Institute in Massachusetts in 1933; and taking a 17-month leave of absence with support from a Priscilla Clark Hodges Scholarship in 1935 in order to obtain his PhD from Harvard University, awarded in early 1937 (Anonymous 1937, 1972) (one of 31 PhDs awarded that mid-semester). He studied under paleontologist Frank Carpenter and his dissertation, entitled "A critical study of the fossil and Recent genera of syrphid flies, with particular reference to their evolution", was published some 12 years later (Hull 1949). During that time at Harvard, Hull made his first trip to England in 1936 to study syrphids at the British Museum (Natural History) [now the Natural History Museum].

His 40 years at the University of Mississippi were filled teaching undergraduate biology courses (he apparently refused teaching graduate level courses) and replete with grant-funded projects (e.g., in his early years with funding to work on Kenyan flies in 1953) and for travel [e.g., 1953–1954 to the UK and Australia with Marguerite and their two young sons as part of a University Research Professorship to study collections abroad with supporting funds from the National Science Foundation (Anonymous 1952, 1968)]. Hull traveled extensively in his work including trips to Europe, Sri Lanka, Cuba, Egypt, Australia, Honduras, Brazil, Nicaragua, Panama, and Mexico; as well as to 40 of the 50 U.S. states.

Upon returning from a trip to Cuba in 1938, Hull brought back three huge cane toads and boasted in a newspaper article that they would each be worth several times more to farmers than the $19 he paid for them, and would do a better job of biocontrol than the smaller toads native to the area because of their huge size (Anonymous 1938). Little did he know that the cane toad would soon be better known in Mississippi and elsewhere as an invasive pest and cause more damage than any perceived benefits of its introduction.

Figure 4. Portrait of Hull for his teaching position at Washington State College, 1925. Photo: *Spokane Daily Chronicle*, 14 October 1925.

Figure 5. Hull in 1930 upon obtaining a professorship at the University of Mississippi. Photo: Evenhuis collection.

Let's hope that his introduction of these upon his return from Cuba in 1938 was not the reason for its current problem in Mississippi.

His trip to Australia in 1953–1954 was briefly noted in one newspaper article out of Perth, Western Australia (Anonymous 1954):

> "When American entomologist Dr. Frank M. Hull announced that he was coming to Australia to study flies, he was told that he was coming to the right place. Now after 4 1/2 months spent here—a week in this state—agrees enthusiastically. He says we have some very interesting species. [...] He is here on a National Science Foundation appointment as a research professor, authorised to write two world monographs on asilids (robber flies) and bombyliids (bee flies). 'These two groups of insects are of great economic importance, because the asilids are predatory and destroy many insects, while the bombyliids are parasites of many other insects' he said. Most of his time in Australia has been spent in museums, though he managed quite a bit of field work in the Eastern States."

In addition to his teaching duties, Hull was also active in professional societies, having memberships in a number of them including the American Association of Economic Entomologists, the American Society of Zoologists, the American Association of University Professors, the Entomological Society of Washington, the American Microscopical Society, the Brazilian Entomological Society, the Entomological Society of America and the Texas Entomological Society; and he brought Sigma Xi to Mississippi upon his return from Harvard to start the first chapter there. He also attended at least one International Congress of Entomology (in August 1956 in Montreal) where he presented two papers (Hull, 1958a,b).

As a token of the University's admiration of Hull's 40-year teaching career and devotion to undergraduate students, a "Frank M. Hull Fund" was established after his retirement in 1971by the Biology Department at the University of Mississippi, awarding an "Excellence in Undergraduate Research" to a student who has presented their work at Undergraduate Research Day.

Hull's taxonomic Diptera work began in 1922 with his first paper (Hull 1922) describing new Syrphidae from Mississippi. Syrphids were to be his favorite family throughout most of his career, publishing 47 papers on them in more than 30 years, and proposing 744 species and 75 new genera. But when he started planning his world monograph on Asilidae (published in Hull, 1962) with National Science Foundation (NSF) funds, he virtually ceased work on syrphids and instead began to publish new species and genera of Asilidae, starting in 1956 with six papers in short succession (Hull 1956a–f). Hull's final tally for Asilidae: 118 new species and 78 new genera. The same general work pattern took place when he started planning his world monograph of Bombyliidae (published

Table 1. **Summary of Diptera described by Hull**.

Family	Species	Valid	%	Genera	Valid	%
Asilidae	118	105	89	78	54	69
Bibionidae	1	1	100	–	–	–
Bombyliidae	42	30	76	36	16	44
Mythicomyiidae	–	–	–	1	0	0
Nemestrinidae	1	1	100	–	–	–
Pipunculidae	4	4	100	–	–	–
Stratiomyidae	3	3	100	–	–	–
Syrphidae	744	516	69	75	41	55
Xylomyidae	2	1	50	1	0	0
Total	**915**	**661**	**73**	**191**	**111**	**58**

Figure 6. Hull in 1946 at the University of Mississippi. Photo: Evenhuis Collection.

Figure 7. Hull gravestone, Beulah Cemetery, Rosedale, Mississippi. Photo: Find-a-grave.com

in Hull, 1973) also with NSF support, where he stopped work on asilids to instead publish taxonomic papers on Bombyliidae starting in 1965 (Hull 1965). Those on bee flies were to be some of his last published papers. His final tally for Bombyliidae: 42 new species and 36 new genera.

Table 1 gives a breakdown of new species of species and genera and totals with percentage valid in each family and Diptera as a whole.

Hull's first wife Marguerite passed away in 1966 after a long illness, and he married again in Florida in June of the following year to Laura Thomas (1901–1976), for whom he named an Australian bee fly genus, *Laurella* (Hull 1973) and species *(Neodiplocampta laurella* Hull & Martin, 1974). After Laura passed away, Hull again married, this time to Gladys Arrington Ward (1923–2005). Shortly after that last marriage, he passed away on 28 December 1982. He is buried in Beulah Cemetery, Rosedale, Mississippi (Fig. 7).

Hull's last paper (Hull & Martin 1974) was on Bombyliidae and co-authored with William C. Martin, whom Hull had, just a few years earlier, trained as a scientific illustrator for his papers (Anonymous 1971) while Martin was studying for his Master's degree. The last grant Hull obtained was from NSF for $51,000 to publish his bee fly monograph.

After Hull's last paper in 1974 there is no further evidence of entomological work and the passing of his second wife Laura may have led to his suspending entomological work altogether. The Hull Collection was purchased by the Canadian National Collection (CNC) in two batches: the first in 1973 and handled by Guy Shewell and Bobbie Peterson, and the last (in 1981) was handled by Dick Vockeroth (see Evenhuis & Greathead 1999; Lavigne 2020). This reduction and eventual cessation from further entomological work may have led to his collection being neglected those last years and some of it ("perhaps a couple thousand specimens") destroyed by dermestids and many boxes of those destroyed specimens having been thrown out (Clovis Hull, pers. comm., 1982). Cooper & Cumming (1993) stated that syrphid types said by Hull to be in his private collection (which was sold to CNC) that were not found in CNC might be found elsewhere. That is doubtful. It is more likely that many of those "missing" types may have suffered the same dermestid damage that was referred to by Lavigne and Clovis Hull and were in among those boxes of specimens that were thrown out before the CNC purchase. Evenhuis & Greathead (1999) gave details on the fate of his Bombyliidae types. Lavigne (2020) detailed the fate of some of the Asilidae which, given the fact there was already dermestid damage noted in the 1960s, the neglect of the collection may have occurred well before 1976.

Acknowledgments

Years ago (2019) Chris Thompson asked me to do a biography of Hull and we would publish that and his bibliography together. Ironically, for such a well-known entomologist and professor, little can be found in the scientific literature concerning biographical details of Hull, or even obituaries (save one newspaper account of the latter event). The biographical information presented here derives primarily from numerous online archival and genealogical sources and those sites are thanked for providing access to their material. Unfortunately, Chris passed away before we could even start on this paper together. It is here dedicated to him. Jeff Skevington and Ximo Mengual kindly reviewed the manuscript and are thanked for comments that helped improve it.

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1922

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1923

2. Notes on the family Nemestrinidae. *Entomological News* 34: 275–277. [1923.11.02]
3. Notes on the family Syrphidae (Diptera) with descriptions of new species. *The Ohio Journal of Science* 23: 295–298. [1923.12.31+]

1924

4. *Milesia* in North America (Dipt.: Syrphidae). *Entomological News* 35: 280–282. [1924.10.06]

1925

5. A review of the genus *Eristalis* Latreille in North America. [Part I]. *The Ohio Journal of Science* 25: 11–45, 2 pls. [1925.01.27]
6. Dipterological work in South Dakota. *Entomological News* 36: 209. [1925.07.06]
7. Notes on the North American species of the genus *Didea* with the description of a new species. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 18: 277–280, 1 pl. [1925.07.17]
8. A review of the genus *Eristalis* Latreille in North America. Part II. *The Ohio Journal of Science* 25: 285–312, 2 pls. [1925.11.23]

1929

9. Syrphidae, pp. 191–198. *In*: *Insects of Samoa and other Samoan terrestrial Arthropoda*. Part VI., Fascicle 4—Diptera. British Museum (Natural History), London. [1929.07.27]
10. The plant louse problem of the Texas Gulf Coast. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 22(5): 774–777. [1929.10.31+]
11. Some possible means of control of the damage caused by the cotton leaf worm moth to the fig. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 22(5): 792–796. [1929.10.31+]

1930

12. Notes on several species of North American Pachygasterinae (Diptera: Stratiomyidae) with the description of a new species. *Entomological News* 41: 103–106. [1930.04.10]
13. Some new species of Syrphidae (Diptera) from North and South America. *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* 56: 139–148, 1 pl. [1930.07.01]
    [Date stamped on separatum cover.]
14. Some notes and descriptions of cerioidine wasp-waisted flies (Syrphidae, Diptera). *Psyche* 37(2): 178–181. [1930.08.13]
15. Some methods on trapping plant lice. *Journal of Economic Entomology* 23: 715–717. [1930.08.31+]

1935

16. Some undescribed species of *Eristalis* from North America in the United States National Museum. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 25: 326–331. [1935.07.15]
17. Some mimetic flies, with description of two new species from North America (Syrphidae; Diptera). *Psyche* 42: 99–102, 1 pl. [1935.08.13]
18. Descriptions of new species of the genus *Sphegina* with a key to those known from North America (Syrphidae; Diptera). *Transactions of the American Entomological Society* 61: 373–382, 1 pl. [1935.11.20]
    [Date stamped on separatum cover.]

1936

19. Change of name. *Entomological News* 47: 227. [1936.10.09]
20. A curious new syrphid fly from Peru. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 38(7): 167–168. [1936.10.30]
21. A check list of the described species of Syrphidae from Australia and the regional islands. *Journal of the Federated Malay Straits Museum* 13: 190–212. [1936.12.31+]

1937

22. Some neotropical and oriental syrphid flies in the United States National Museum. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 27: 165–176. [1937.04.15]
23. New species of exotic syrphid flies. *Psyche* 44: 12–32.[1937.06.30+]
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1938

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1939

29. Alteration and regeneration in the head and pharyngeal regions of planarians. *Anatomical Record* 75: 68–69. [1939.12.31++]

1940

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    [Dating from Furth (1994: 138).]
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1941

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35. A study of syrphid flies from Madagascar (Diptera). *Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia* 92[1940]: 309–334. [1941.04.08]
36. Some new species of Syrphidae. *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society* 14: 61–63. [1941.04.30+]
37. Some new syrphid flies from North and South America (Diptera). *Entomological News* 52: 157–163. [1941.06.16]
38. Some new species of Syrphidae from South America. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 31: 311–315. [1941.07.15]
39. Some new species of Syrphidae. *Bulletin of the Brooklyn Entomological Society* 36: 166–168. [1941.09.03]
40. Some undescribed syrphid flies from the Neotropical region. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences* 31: 432–440. [1941.10.13]
41. New American syrphid flies (Diptera). *American Museum Novitates* 1151: 1–3. [1941.10.28]
42. Some species of the genus *Baccha* from the New World. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 43(8): 181–183. [1941.11.29]
43. Some new species of Syrphidae from Florida, Cuba and Brazil (Diptera). *Entomological News* 52: 278–283. [1941.12.30]
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1942

45. Some new species of Syrphidae. *Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society*, 15, 10–12. [1942.01.31+]
46. Some new species of *Baccha* and *Mesogramma*. *The Ohio Journal of Science* 42: 73–74. [1942.03.31+]
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1943

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