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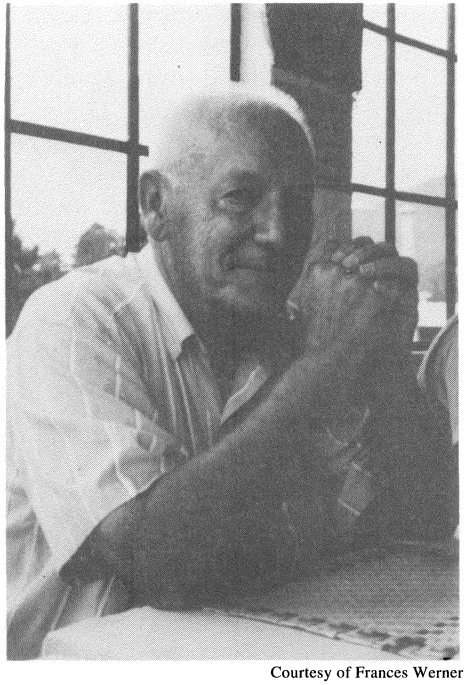

Courtesy of Frances Werner

Floyd Gerald Werner, 1991

FLOYD GERALD WERNER 1921–1992

BY CARL A. OLSON[1]

Floyd Gerald Werner was born June 1, 1921, to Frank and Edith Mumper Werner. He attended the public schools in Ottawa, Illinois and here his career in insects began with his first publication in

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1938, an account of the habitat and behavior of *Doru aculeatum* (Scudder), an earwig found in the marshes of northern Illinois. His love of science was fostered by a high school teacher, Charles J. Alikonis.

Upon graduation Floyd enrolled at Harvard College. In 1943, he was awarded a bachelor's degree in Biology, magna cum laude. At this time he was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi. During these undergraduate years Floyd served as a student assistant in the Coleoptera Section of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, where he discovered many treasures that he would work on later in his career.

World War II interrupted Floyd's college career, giving him the opportunity to serve as an entomologist with the U.S. Army in the South Pacific. His medical survey unit worked with mosquitoes and malaria in Okinawa and Korea. In 1951 he returned to Okinawa at the request of the Pacific Science Board to study sweet potato pests, as sweet potatoes were the chief source of carbohydrates for a population still in post-war recovery.

In 1946–47, Floyd returned to the South Pacific as part of a scientific expedition charged with surveying the flora and fauna of the Philippine Islands, particularly Luzon, Mindanao and Palawa. The expedition was sponsored by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago and the Philippine Bureau of Science. Collections included everything from bizarre mayflies in the family Prosopistomatidae to giant fruit eating bats infested with Nycteribiidae to hoodless cobras. Stories about these times always brought a sparkle to Floyd's eyes.

Returning to Harvard in 1947 after these adventures, Floyd worked on a doctorate in Zoology. His specialty was insect taxonomy, in particular the Meloidae and Anthicidae. Many papers on these families followed, climaxed by his work on the meloids of Arizona, published in 1966, and several major generic revisions of anthicids. Floyd and fellow student William L. Nutting took long collecting trips in the summers of 1948 and 1949 across the United States, including side trips into Canada and Mexico. They spent several months in the Southwest. A white bread truck, Floyd's infamous collecting vehicle, took him and Bill into many grand collecting spots, including one in South Dakota that turned out to be accessible only by a horse cart with old car tires, a surprise that left these compadres looking for a tow out. In 1950, Floyd was

awarded his Ph. D. in Zoology. His dissertation was entitled "Studies of Nearctic Anthicidae (Coleoptera)."

Floyd's first job was as Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Vermont in 1950. It was here that he met his future wife, Frances Watson, who was also teaching in the Zoology Department. This union produced three children, Susan, William and John. All three are commissioned law officers working for wildlife agencies in Colorado or Arizona. They are carrying on their father's interest in and love of the great outdoors.

In 1954, Floyd returned to the scene of those monumental trips of the late forties. He was hired by the University of Arizona entomology department, headed by Dr. Lawrence Carruth, to be part of the staff of the Arizona Economic Insect Survey, to expand the departmental insect collection as curator and to teach systematics and other courses as needed. Collecting emphasis was on insects important to the expanding agricultural community. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1958 and Professor in 1962.

At the University of Arizona, Floyd built the research collection from one Cambridge Unit that held 28 Schmitt boxes into the finest Southwest insect collection in the United States, with well over half a million specimens and more than thirteen thousand species of Arizona insects. The spectacular array of Coleoptera is the high point. Floyd, though, was the collector's collector, and his forays through Arizona with George Butler and Bill Nutting in the early fifties and sixties added many representatives of Hymenoptera and Diptera, including parasites valuable for biological control. His responsibilities in the department led to publications on scarab beetles and white grubs, parasites of cotton insects and other insects important to agriculture in Arizona. Studies made by his graduate students included bee-meloid interactions, range plant-insect associations, spiders as predators in crops and various taxonomic treatments.

His true love still lay with the small beetles in the families Anthicidae and Aderidae. In 1963 a sabbatical in South America with stops in Brazil and Argentina helped provide material for his comprehensive study of the genus *Acanthinus* in the New World. Other studies on anthicids included a revision of the genus *Anthicus* in North America and a preliminary study of the anthicids of New Zealand.

Floyd's final works included a revision of the Aderidae, a study made possible by the excellent collections of Karl Stephan, and a special paper on the genus *Elonus* dedicated to Dr. Frank M. Carpenter, Floyd's mentor while at Harvard. Floyd was also working on the aderids of New Zealand.

After his retirement in 1989, Floyd took on the unenviable task of Editor of the Coleopterist Bulletin, which he fulfilled to the end, his final volume of the Bulletin appearing the day after his death. He prided himself in making sure a job he took on was completed in a timely and professional manner.

Because being editor of a journal and continuing work on beetles wasn't enough, Floyd accepted the challenge of writing a book on the arthropods of the Southwest, for lay people to use to understand what Floyd enjoyed most, the world of insects. This book should be on the market in the spring of 1994.

Floyd was a member of many professional societies and served on a variety of their committees over the years. He was chairman of the Committee on Common Names of Insects and edited the 1982 revision for the Entomological Society of America. He was particularly interested in the survival of taxonomy and the continuation of historical collections. He had visited a number of the collections of the world including those in London, Budapest and Paris, and contributed his curatorial skills and knowledge of beetles wherever possible at those institutions.

Some of the statistics on Floyd's professional accomplishments include 100 professional papers on a variety of insects, from beetles to mantispids, parasitic wasps to spiders. His knowledge of the arthropod world was truly awesome. He described 164 species of meloids, anthicids, aderids and cebrionids, and three new genera in the former three families. His name adorns such insects as an Arizona stonefly, numerous meloids, anthicids and many other taxa.

As a citizen of Tucson, Floyd was active in groups such as the Tucson Men's Garden Club, Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society, the Tucson Natural History Society and many others. He was asked to speak before many local groups about insects. He was an original faculty member for the Tucson Audubon Society's Desert Ecology Institute.

Floyd loved to hunt and fish. He spent much of his leisure time outdoors experiencing the Arizona desert as a naturalist. He fished for sunfish and bass, bow-hunted for elk, antelope and javelina, and stalked the elusive black-tailed jackrabbit.

Floyd's lasting obsession was his collection of Euphorbiaceae that occupied several greenhouses and a great part of the acre of yard around the Werner casa. Floyd started many rare plants from seed, priding himself in this conservation effort. He finally got to see euphorbias first hand in the wild when he traveled to South Africa with his wife and the Nuttings to attend the annual meeting of the Succulent Society in Johannesburg in 1991.

It seems quite amazing that Floyd waited until retirement to suddenly be afflicted with very untimely ills. He was hunting squirrels the weekend before he needed his gall bladder removed. This little incident caused him to miss a couple weeks of his last systematics class, a rare occurrence indeed. A year later he underwent triple-bypass heart surgery, another 'minor' setback for him. He came out of those like the stout-hearted German he was, and went back after life's challenges. His last battle, though, with cancer was a losing one and Floyd died on December 20, 1992.

It seems only appropriate to end this history of my mentor, colleague and good friend with an archygram from Floyd's favorite philosopher, Archy the Cockroach.

'insects have their own point
of view about civilization a man
thinks he amounts to a great deal
but to a flea or a mosquito
a human being is merely something
good to eat'

the lives and times of archy and mehitabel
by don marquis

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New genera and species of insects named by Floyd G. Werner

Anthicidae

1) Acanthinus acutus
2) A. ambiguus
3) A. australiensis
4) A. bechyneorum
5) A. blackburni
6) A. bokermanni
7) A. bordoni
8) A. browni
9) A. ceibensis
10) A. continuus
11) A. cristatus
12) A. darlingtoni
13) A. diffusus
14) A. egleri
15) A. elegantulus
16) A. fairchildi
17) A. fastigatus
18) A. fimbriatus
19) A. formiciformis
20) A. freyorum
21) A. fucosus
22) A. geijskesi
23) A. glareosus
24) A. hapacarensis
25) A. harringtoni
26) A. imitans
27) A. invitus
28) A. klagesi
29) A. kraussi
30) A. lanceatus
31) A. lucidus
32) A. nevermanni
33) A. paraguayensis
34) A. parianae
35) A. pilositibia
36) A. pullus
37) A. rohweri
38) A. rosalesi
39) A. schwarzi
40) A. silvai
41) A. simplicisternum
42) A. solus
43) A. spinosior
44) A. veracruzensis
45) A. zeteki
46) Anthicus antilleorum
47) A. antiochensis
48) A. barbatus
49) A. blackwelder
50) A. comanche
51) A. custodiae
52) A. darlingtoni
53) A. hispaniolae
54) A. hondurensis
55) A. margaritae
56) A. musculus
57) A. panamensis
58) A. potosianus
59) A. soledad
60) A. sonorensis
61) A. torquatus
62) Chileanthicus penai*
63) Ischyropalpus alvarengai
64) I. cochisei
65) I. dispar
66) I. decoratus
67) I. eryngii
68) I. freyi
69) I. gemellus
70) I. placidus
71) I. puteifer
72) I. tibialis
73) Lappus thicaniformis
74) Mecynotarsus hispaniolae
75) Sapintus alvarengai
76) S. arizonicus
77) S. balteatus
78) S. canaliculatus
79) S. capitatus
80) S. caudatus
81) S. creber
82) S. curvipilosus
83) S. golbachi
84) S. lemniscatus
85) S. lobatus
86) S. malkini
87) S. ovalis
88) S. sentis
89) S. similis
90) S. spinulosus
91) S. subulatus
92) Tomoderus inhabilis
93) Vacusus martinsi
94) V. vulgaris

Meloidae

1) Epicauta afoveata
2) E. alpina
3) E. andersoni
4) E. arizonica
5) E. aspersa
6) E. balli
7) E. barberi
8) E. bipunctata
9) E. bispinosa
10) E. brunnea
11) E. calcarata
12) E. californica
13) E. cicatrix
14) E. ennsi
15) E. ensiformis
16) E. ficta
17) E. floridensis
18) E. fortis
19) E. hubbelli
20) E. isthmica
21) E. kansana
22) E. laevicornis
23) E. lauta rossi
24) E. liebecki
25) E. nigritibialis
26) E. nogales
27) E. normalis
28) E. occidentalis
29) E. parkeri
30) E. phoenix
31) E. polingi
32) E. prosopidis
33) E. punctipennis
34) E. senilis
35) E. selanderorum
36) E. solani
37) E. tenebrosa
38) E. tenuemarginata
39) E. texana
40) E. triquetra
41) E. uniforma
42) E. ventralis
43) Lytta mirifica
44) L. navajo
45) Pleuropompha tricostata
46) Thambospasta howdeni*

Cebrionidae

1) Cebrio abnormis
2) C. atokanus
3) C. bruesi

Aderidae

1) Aderus mcclurei
2) Elonus chisosensis
3) E. excavatus
4) E. hesperus
5) E. simplex
6) Emelinus butleri
7) E. huachucanus
8) Euglenes batuensis
9) E. cephalicus
10) E. malayanus
11) Gymnoganascus stephani*
12) Vanonus balteatus
13) V. macrops
14) V. musculus
15) V. oklahomensis
16) V. uniformis
17) V. valgus
18) Zonantes floridanus
19) Z. mississippiensis
20) Z. ouachitanus
21) Z. pallidus

*Indicates genus named by F. G. Werner