



OBITUARY

James Gordon Thomas Chillcott

The death on 20 April of Jim Chillcott, who suffered a heart seizure near Kathmandu, Nepal, has come as a profound shock to all his friends and colleagues. From the moment of his arrival in Ottawa as a summer student in 1950, Jim was full of restless energy, of determination to succeed, of boundless enthusiasm for zoological research. The task was to channel and direct this phenomenal vitality into productive fields. Opportunity was not lacking, for the Northern Insect Survey was then just hitting its stride, and Jim spent the summer of 1950 at Chesterfield Inlet with Dick Vockeroth, already a veteran of two summers on the Arctic coast. This was a great start for him with a young man not only able to match his physical energy, but willing to share the fruits of his experience and to provide, for Jim's enthusiasms, the counterbalance of a perceptive and critical intellect. The following summer he was at Spence Bay with A. E. R. Downe. This time Jim was the instructor and Al remembers turning in at the end of weary days leaving Jim still "pinning, sorting and keying with as much energy as when he started." He also remembers him armed with bow and arrows, shooting for the pot, the resulting meals of "ptarmigan fricaseed à la Chillcott" being best forgotten. Jim's written report makes extensive comparisons of the insects with those of the previous season at Chesterfield. There is a list of birds with their relative abundance, notes on mammals, fish and other aquatic forms, and time was somehow found to make a plant collection consisting of 71 species in 21 families.

Although the Arctic is, for most people, an environment evoking strong reactions, Jim seemed able to accept it unemotionally, for to him it was, in essence, a unique habitat, especially in its insect life. His immunity to its tensions was demonstrated in the summer of 1953. Unlike the eastern and western regions where intensive military activity prevailed, the central Arctic was then still difficult of access. Jim was selected to undertake a season of field work in this area, but no plans could be made beyond transporting him with supplies to Yellowknife and providing funds for a charter flight to a suitable site beyond tree-line. After arrival at Yellowknife, he wrote to T. N. Freeman on 10 May. *"In a talk with Associated Airways manager here, I found these possibilities. 1. Salmity Mines, some ten miles from any large numbers of trees but with scattered clumps throughout the country. The mine is not in full operation so there is a good chance of accommodation. 2. Muskox Lake, almost 100 miles from tree-line, where a prospector has been staying for some time and is expected to stay all summer. He has quite comfortable living quarters, with a full supply of staples,*

two canoes, etc. He has an Eskimo family with him (Back R. natives). He is apparently quite happy there and although not doing steady prospecting, is staying in. Said to be quite a congenial chap with a good sense of humour, and possibly quite happy to assist me on the survey. Probably somewhat bushed but not seriously . . . I'll have no chance to contact him beforehand, but they assure me he'll not be ungrateful for company, especially if I take in some of the frills and variety in foodstuffs. He has no contact with the outside so I'll need a radio. . . ." On 13 June, he flew to Salmita Mines on Matthews Lake and from there wrote "I am now camped in an 8×10 silk tent with the tundra for my mattress and equipment cartons for my furniture. Nevertheless it is fairly comfortable. I'm eating with the miners, and may have some desk space in a Quonset later on . . . Collecting should be good. Stunted spruce in scattered clumps and a few high trees due west on the horizon . . ." Besides meals, the miners evidently supplied him with local gossip. "I'm going to be nicely in the middle of grizzly country this summer — there is said to be a pair close to camp here. Does the government ever supply firearms and equipment, or must I protect myself? I don't really favour an insect net as a defensive weapon. If I'm entitled to (a gun) I'd be happy to hear it . . ." The government's response to this request is not recorded but in any case he did not meet any grizzlies and when, in July, he finally reached Muskox Lake, the "congenial chap with a good sense of humour" apparently considered the unexpected arrival of the plane a direct answer to prayer. An empty aircraft bound for Yellowknife and returning to Muskox in the fall. There was only one choice to be made. He climbed aboard. So Jim was left with the rent-free use of a prospector's cabin for the summer, with no company but that of the longspurs, the sand-pipers, the ground squirrels, and — perhaps — the grizzlies. The tremendous insect collections from that remote spot on the tundra are ample proof that he wasted no time brooding over his fate. Once again too there was opportunity for a plant collection — 83 species in 27 families.

The necessity to build up funds to continue his education kept Jim at work in Ottawa for two winters following his graduation from O.A.C. He joined the Diptera Unit, doing general curation and identification and before long was given responsibility for several families. In the fall of 1953 he started work for his Ph.D. at the University of Kansas. Throughout his college years he was an outstanding student, holding numerous bursaries, scholarships, and fellowships. For his doctorate he undertook a greatly-needed revision of the muscoid subfamily Fanniinae. He received his Ph.D. in 1958, but because of pressure of his research programme and other responsibilities two more years passed before he was able to bring the Fanniinae revision to a state that satisfied him for publication. The Muscidae were his official responsibility, but he early developed a special interest in Empididae, especially *Rhampomyia* Mg. He published a number of revisional treatments in this family and had others in preparation. Field work was always an essential part of his programme and there were few summers after 1956 when he was neither organizing nor participating in Institute surveys. In due course he went to Mexico, SE. United States, S. Manitoba, central B.C., Colorado, Uranium City and finally, in 1966, back to his first love, the Arctic, to make collections while canoeing with a party down the Dubawnt River. It was like old times and the enjoyment of roughing it was again with him when he wrote to me on 1 July "Just a note to say that after a day of bad weather spent in an abandoned back corner of a radio shack and two nights in a sleeping bag on bare slat springs, I'm on my way up with the last of three flights taking our gear the 115 miles to Wholdaia Lake." The Himalayan expedition was a special project of his, originally planned for 1963, hit by government "austerity", and revived on a more

modest scale this year. The preparatory work was very great, most of it falling to Jim as expedition leader so that, up to the moment of departure, he was immersed in details of transport, supplies, and many other problems. It is perhaps some comfort to know that he lived to see the expedition successfully launched.

Jim's impact on North American dipterology will be enduring. In a short life-span, he published an exceptional number of solid taxonomic treatments, listed hereunder. Brought up on Mayr and Dobzhansky, Huxley and Simpson, he was up-to-date in his thinking and, being by inclination a trail-blazer, he was constantly searching for new approaches and perhaps, at first, a little impatient with the old ideas and points of view. With time came a mellower outlook and a willingness to draw on the experience of others.

As with all human beings, his personality offered to the observer some paradoxes. He liked to go to meetings, to talk to colleagues, to discuss his own and others' work. He enjoyed thinking out loud and was sometimes hard to find in his office. And yet he was by nature rather solitary. Perhaps a lack of brothers and the early death of his father contributed to this. He was not a raconteur, and what little we know of his adventures in the field comes from a few letters written in the course of duty.

Born at Penetanguishene, Ontario, on 19 June 1929, Jim attended local public and high schools and in 1947 entered Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. At college he developed an interest in the Militia Reserve, and at the time of his death was a Major in the 30th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery. Without any doubt, his chief interest outside of his work was in his family. He married Naomi Blanche Todoroff in 1955 and was the proud and devoted father of five fine children, Sandra, Linda, Jamie, Robert, and Randall. Therein lies the chief tragedy of his passing.

1956. Cody, W. J. and J. G. Chillcott. Plant collections from Matthews and Muskox Lakes, Mackenzie District, N.W.T. *Can.Fld Nat.* **69**: 153-162.
1958. The comparative morphology of the male genitalia of muscoid Diptera. *Proc. Xth int. Congr. Ent.* (1956). Vol. 1. pp. 587-592.
1958. Notes on a rare fly, *Megagrapha pubescens* (Loew) (Diptera: Empididae). *Can. Ent.* **90**: 608-611.
1958. A new nearctic species of *Symbalophthalmus* Becker (Diptera: Empididae). *Can. Ent.* **90**: 647-649.
1958. Two new species of *Euryomma* (Stein) (Muscidae: Diptera) from Panama. *Can. Ent.* **90**: 725-731.
1959. The *Pegomyia hyoscyami* (spinach leaf-miner) complex in North America (Diptera: Muscidae). *Can. Ent.* **91**: 167-170.
1959. Studies on the genus *Rhamphomyia* Meigen: A revision of the nearctic species of the *basalis* group of the subgenus *Pararhamphomyia* Frey (Diptera: Empididae). *Can. Ent.* **91**: 257-275.
1961. A revision of the nearctic species of Fanniinae (Diptera: Muscidae). *Can. Ent., Suppl.* 14.
1961. Ten new species of *Fannia* R.D. (Diptera: Muscidae) from the palaearctic and oriental regions. *Can. Ent.* **93**: 81-92.
1961. A revision of the genus *Roederioides* Coquillett (Diptera: Empididae). *Can. Ent.* **93**: 419-428.
1961. The genus *Bolbomyia* Loew (Diptera: Rhagionidae). *Can. Ent.* **93**: 632-636.
1962. A revision of the *Platypalpus juvenis* complex in North America (Diptera: Empididae). *Can. Ent.* **94**: 113-143.
1963. A new genus of Rhagionidae (Diptera) with notes and descriptions of *Bolbomyia* Loew. *Can. Ent.* **95**: 1185-1190.
1964. A new species of *Glenanthe* Haliday (Diptera: Ephydriidae) from the North American Interior. *Can. Ent.* **96**: 811-812.
1965. New species and stages of nearctic *Fannia* R.D. (Diptera: Muscidae) associated with nests of Hymenoptera. *Can. Ent.* **97**: 640-647.

1965. A revision of the eastern nearctic species of *Rhagio* Fabricius (Diptera: Rhagionidae). *Can. Ent.* **97**: 785-795.
1965. Families Gasterophilidae, Oestridae, and Cuterebridae. In A. Stone, et al. A catalog of the Diptera of America north of Mexico. *U.S. Dep. Agric., Agric. Res. Serv., Agric. Handb.* 276.
1966. A new species of *Roederioides* Coquillett (Diptera: Empididae) from Utah, with additional notes on the genus. *Can. Ent.* **98**: 315-316.
1966. The male of *Fannia shimabanae* Chillcott (Diptera: Muscidae) and its proper affinities in the genus. *Can. Ent.* **98**: 555-557.
1966. Chillcott, J. G., and H. G. James. A new species of *Paraprosalpia* Villeneuve (Diptera: Anthomyiidae) reared from a beetle larva. *Can. Ent.* **98**: 699-702.

G. E. SHEWELL

BOOK REVIEWS

Residue Reviews, Volume 16, edited by Francis A. Gunther. Springer-Verlag, Inc., New York. 1966. 158 pp. \$7.40 U.S. currency.

Volume 16 of the fast-multiplying *Residue Review* series is very much "mixture as before" status. The six review papers are generally well written and authoritative and different parts of the volume should be useful to those concerned with research or administrative supervision of pesticide residues. However, "mixture" is the operative word in the above description; the subject matter, depth and approach of review (own work, critical or reference catalogue), and language (5 English, 1 German paper) vary within the volume.

The subject matter varies from analytical methodology to field surveys and situations. The methodology reviews include "adsorbents and their application to column cleanup of pesticide residues" by H. V. Morley; "extraction of chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides from plant materials" by W. B. Wheeler and D. E. H. Frear; and "application of mass spectroscopy to pesticide residue analysis" by T. R. Kantner and R. O. Mumma. A paper in German by S. W. Souci and G. Maier-Haarländer summarizes their work on the occurrence, odour and transfer of biphenyl in citrus fruits from several sources and during storage. A comprehensive review of the "behaviour of herbicides in soil" is given by R. P. Upchurch, and a survey with reassuring results, "pesticides in the total diet," is described by J. G. Cummings.

The editing and production of Volume 16 are of the high standards we have come to expect of Dr. Gunther and Springer-Verlag, but the value of, and interest in the series could be increased, in the opinion of this reviewer, if a clearer organization of subjects were followed. Also, the random use of three languages (English, French and German) in presenting specialized subjects makes uniform study difficult for any scientific reader, and a short summary in all three languages at the end of a review paper is not really very useful to him.

W. N. YULE

Residue Reviews, Volume 17, edited by Francis A. Gunther. Springer-Verlag, Inc., New York. 1967. 184 pp. \$8.50 U.S. currency.

The majority of the topics discussed in Volume 17 of *Residue Reviews* are of special interest to analytical chemists who determine residues of pesticides and other toxic chemicals in food crops. There is a good discussion of the use of spectrophotofluorometry and spectrophotophosphorimetry for the determination of residues of carbamate insecticides and for insecticide synergists and related compounds.