



Edgar Harold Strickland 1889-1962

EDGAR HAROLD STRICKLAND, M.Sc., D.Sc., F.E.S.A., F.R.S.C., died at Victoria, British Columbia, on May 31, 1962.

Dr. Strickland was born in England at Erith, Kent, on May 29, 1889. The best characteristics of the English distinguished him throughout life integrated, in a way which few have achieved, with New World enterprise and breadth. Dr. Strickland studied at Wye Agricultural College in the neighboring North Downs from 1909 to 1911 where F. V. Theobald confirmed his major interest in insects and within them in the Diptera, through exacting meticulous work with mosquitoes. Under the auspices of the British Colonial Office, with a view to service against sleeping sickness in Africa, he came to North America to attend Harvard University on a Carnegie studentship from 1911 to 1913. There, he earned an M.Sc. degree under Wheeler with studies on termites and on parasites of *Simulium*. His services were then loaned to Canada to obtain two years of field experience—by opening a one-man field station in the attic of a sheep barn at Lethbridge.

War intervened. Strickland went overseas as a private with the 196th Battalion and served as Lieutenant with the 1st Battalion, Canadian Machine Gun Corps, until he was wounded in September 1918. His service in the First World War foreshadowed greater contributions in the second. From 1935 to 1940 he was commanding officer of the University of Alberta COTC, from 1936 to 1939 aide-de-camp to the Lieutenant-Governor and from 1942 to 1944 commanding officer of the Canadian Army Basic Training Unit 133 at Wetaskiwin, Alberta. He was awarded the King's Jubilee medal in 1935 and the Coronation medal in 1937.

Either Colonel Strickland's military career or Professor Strickland's entomological career should have been sufficient for any ordinary man; nobody, aware of his enthusiasm as a soldier would have suspected an equal enthusiasm in such a different field. And yet he managed to exhibit both at the same time in his teaching of entomology and in his caring for the interests of veterans after the Second World War.

In 1919, a crucial period in stored product entomology, he was placed in charge of this work at Ottawa, moving to Lethbridge again during the summers to complete his classical studies on parasites of the pale western cutworm. It was from this work that he was invited to join the faculty of the University of Alberta in Edmonton as Professor of Entomology and head of the one-man department, in 1922. Except for a period during the Second World War when he felt he could leave this to younger men, Professor Strickland was the department of entomology, alone until 1946, until his retirement in 1954.

Generations of students remember his introductory course in entomology as a highlight of their time spent at the University. At least one of them from an early year remembered it well enough to ensure that both his son and his grandson registered in it. From this course they got more than entomology; more than one of them has told me that his philosophy of life dated from lectures in this course.

Accepting the inevitability of the shortage of funds, Professor Strickland devoted his spare time to building up a knowledge of the fauna of Alberta. This was an inexpensive activity, and of course an essential foundation for further entomological work. It suffered less from the interruptions of wars than most other activities would have and it left for his successors one of the outstanding insect collections in Canada. All of this, of course, was beyond the normal call of duty; Strickland collected insects by day and by night, at work and on holiday. An accomplished artist and illustrator, he also left a magnificent collection of entomological teaching charts and drawings. A more intangible legacy for his successors was the reputation for undergraduate training in entomology which the department had and which many much larger establishments might envy.

Strickland published more than 60 scientific papers, covering such varied topics as taxonomy and check lists of Alberta fauna; comparative morphology of Diptera; parasites of *Simulium* spp. and their effects on the hosts; control of all the major groups of agricultural pests in Western Canada: cutworms, grasshoppers, and wireworms, chiefly by natural and ecological means; the influence of various factors on insect abundance; and the hazards of DDT. Never a man to withdraw from the general public, he also wrote many popular articles and was an accomplished radio speaker.

In 1953 Professor Strickland was honored with a fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1954, at the university which he served so well, he

earned a Doctor of Science degree with his research in entomology. He was a charter member and an honorary life member of the Entomological Society of Alberta and was its first president. He was an honorary member of the Entomological Society of Canada, and in 1952 he was elected a fellow of the Entomological Society of America.

In 1924 Strickland married Alice Fairfield of Lethbridge. Their two daughters, each an engagingly different blend of their parents' qualities, are married and there are four grandchildren. The charm of their home in Edmonton was translated with characteristic enthusiasm into a new home in Victoria on Strickland's retirement. Their many friends will ever remember, not just the unflinching hospitality, but a certain indefinable quality, the warmth of tweeds and the quiet dignity of times alas past, which pervaded these places.

Scientist, soldier, teacher, philosopher, Strickland was also a philanthropist in the best sense. Shrewdly directed, this unobtrusive activity has been known to few, least of all those who benefited. He wished it so. Professor Strickland made his generous contract with life early and kept it to the end; we can but temper our sorrow at his passing with gratitude for his life.

Brian Hocking,
August, 1962.

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A New Species of *Aspidaphis* Gillette (Homoptera: Aphididae)

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Aspidaphis Gillette is a small genus of poorly known aphids that are readily recognizable by the flangeless cornicles and the presence of a tubercle on the eighth abdominal tergum. In addition to the present species three other species have been described, two of which occur in North America.

Key to the North American Species of *Aspidaphis*

1. Cornicle more than 0.1 mm. long; not on *Polygonum aviculare* s. lat. 2
 Cornicle less than 0.1 mm. long; on *Polygonum aviculare* s. lat.
 *Aspidaphis adjuvans* (Walker)
2. Antennae in apterae dark apically; cornicle longer than cauda; only known to occur
 on *Catabrosa aquatica* (L.) *Aspidaphis aquatica* (Gillette and Bragg)
 Antennae in apterae without dark pigment; cornicle in apterae not longer than cauda;
 only known to occur on *Spiraea* sp. *Aspidaphis longicauda*, new species