

OBITUARY



Dr. Ed Becker
March 15, 1923–May 13, 2008

Dr. Ed Becker passed away on May 13, 2008 at the age of 85. He was a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada from 1952–1980 working as a taxonomist at the Canadian National Collection of Insects, Arachnids and Nematodes (CNC) in Ottawa. His area of expertise was the systematics of click beetles (Coleoptera: Elateridae), which include many Canadian crop pest species. During his life, he published 36 scientific articles, book chapters and reviews. Following retirement, he became an Honorary Research Associate and continued to come into work nearly every day for the past 28 years.

In addition to Ed's scientific work, he was active in many entomological societies and organizations, working as treasurer of the Entomological Society of Canada (1961–1985), Section A representative for the Entomological Society of America (1982–1984), Editor of the *Coleopterist's Bulletin* (1983–1990) and President of the Coleopterist's Society (1971–1972). Perhaps his biggest contribution to entomology was through the CanaColl Foundation, a non-profit organization that Ed helped create and almost single-handedly nurtured for the past 36 years. The foundation promotes taxonomic research at CNC by providing funds to visiting entomologists who curate the collection. The Foundation currently has investments of \$475,000 and has awarded over \$200,000 in grants to nearly 300 researchers. Ed was recognized for his work by receiving the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1978), the Canada Commemorative Award (1984) and was made a Fellow of the Entomological Society of Canada (1974) and an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of America (1997). His tireless efforts to promote entomology and CNC have had far-reaching effects not only in Canada, but throughout the world. Ed's cheerful, positive attitude, sense of humour and love of bowties will be sadly missed.

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