



**Dr. Raimon (Ray) Beard**  
**1912- 2003**

Dr. Raimon (Ray) Beard, one of the original members of this Society, and for almost 40 years an entomologist with The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, died at age 91 at Heron Point, Chestertown, Maryland.

Dr. Beard was born in Longmont, Colorado on April 7, 1912. After graduating from high school in Longmont, he attended Antioch College, earned his BA (Phi Beta Kappa) from Wesleyan University, and received his Ph.D. from Yale University in 1939.

Dr. Beard began his career at The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station as a part-time

Junior Laboratory Technician in 1934 while he was a graduate student at Yale University. He joined the Experiment Station full-time in 1939. He published more than 93 scientific papers, mostly single authored, on a wide range of entomological research topics – ecology, biological control, host plant resistance, chemical control, insecticide resistance, physiology, and pathology. Ray was notable in that although usually concerned with basic research, he freely undertook problems with applied entomology when called upon.

An early and continuing interest in biological control produced papers on tachinid parasites of the

common squash bug, *Anasa tristis*, and milky spore disease of the Japanese beetle. He published his classic study on milky disease of Japanese beetle larvae in 1945 as a 78 page Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Bulletin #491. His laboratory and field experiments with this disease were legion and included such important issues as mode of infection, course of disease, pathogenicity, susceptibility, spore potency, transmission, vertical distribution of spores in soil, and effect of this pathogen on field populations of the beetle. Later publications by Dr. Beard reported two milky diseases and a previously unnamed coccidian parasite of Australian Scarabaeidae. Jaroslav Weiser and Beard described this parasite in Volume 1 of the Journal of Insect Pathology. With his colleague

Dennis Dunbar, he reported increased resistance of Japanese and oriental beetle larvae to *Bacillus popilliae* in 1975.

In the early 1950's he shifted his research to insect physiology and the effects of hymenopterous venom of parasites on their insect hosts. Ray was one of the pioneers concerned with resistance to pesticides and this developed in later years into population studies of closed systems. In the mid 1960's, Ray published three papers in the Journal of Invertebrate Pathology on mycotoxins of *Aspergillus* and their effects on the pathogenesis in insects. Anticipating problems with persistent pesticides for control of termites, he was a pioneer in experimenting with bait blocks and prebaiting for termite control.

His work with insect venoms was recognized by requests for contributory chapters in texts and the Annual Review of Entomology. In 1946 he was seconded for a year to the National Research Council in Washington. In 1954-55 he did research in Australia under a Fulbright Senior Research Grant, and in 1966 had an assignment with the International Atomic Energy Agency in Thailand. He served on the WHO Expert Advisory Panel on Insecticides from 1962-1972.

Dr. Beard was a member of the Governing Board of the Entomological Society of America. He was one of the founders of the Connecticut Entomological Society, serving as President and Editor of its memoirs. He was a member of numerous scientific societies, but his wide ranging interests also made him active in local and statewide botanical and historical societies and land trusts. Beekeeper, house builder, printer, musical instrument maker, Ray was predeceased by his wife, Frances Clark Beard, of 54 years and is survived by two daughters, Mary B. Deming of Fullerton, California and Carol B. Ireland of Hockessin, Delaware, and four granddaughters.

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