

Arthur Mills Lea

Arthur Mills Lea (10 August 1868 – 29 February 1932) was an Australian entomologist.

Lea was born in Surry Hills, New South Wales, the second son of Thomas Lea, from Bristol, England, and his wife Cornelia, *née* Dumbrell, of Sydney. As a child, Lea was interested in insects and studied them in his spare time. He worked for a chartered accountant firm in Sydney for a while, then became an assistant entomologist for the minister of Agriculture at Sydney in 1891. In 1895 he became government entomologist in Western Australia. Then in 1899 he was appointed government entomologist in Tasmania, where succeeded in controlling Codling Moth.

From 1912 to 1924 Lea taught at University of Adelaide; he specialised in the study of beetles. From 1924 he took a 12-month appointment with the government of Fiji to investigate the Levuana moth, a pest attacking copra crops. Lea searched for a fly parasite, eventually finding one in Malaya, of the Tachinidae family. However, the flies died on transport by ship to Fiji. Later on, the same fly species was introduced to Fiji without Lea getting credit. (see John Douglas Tohill)

Lea also collected specimens in New Caledonia, and when his eyesight began to fail he relied on his assistant, Norman Tindale to make drawings. In all, he described 5,432 new beetle species, and was a fellow of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, of the Royal Society of South Australia and of the Entomological Society of London



References

- E. G. Matthews, Lea, Arthur Mills (1868 - 1932), *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Volume 10, MUP, 1986, pp 31–32. Retrieved on 2009-07-17
- Serle, Percival (1949). "Lea, Arthur Mills". *Dictionary of Australian Biography* Sydney: Angus and Robertson Retrieved 2009-07-17.
- University of Melbourne- brief biography

External links

- Obituary Notice of Arthur Mills Lea- Tansactions of the Royal Society of South Australia
 - Obituary Notice Sydney Morning Herald2 April 1932
 - Australian Postal History
-

Retrieved from 'https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Arthur_Mills_Lea&oldid=846085052

This page was last edited on 16 June 2018, at 06:01(UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike Licenseadditional terms may apply By using this site, you agree to the Terms of Use and Privacy Policy. Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization.