

Charles Duncan Michener

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Charles Duncan Michener (born September 22, 1918) is an American entomologist^[1] born in Pasadena, California. He is a leading expert on bees, his *magnum opus* being *The Bees of the World*. He passed away October 30 2015 age 97.^[2]

Biography

Much of his career has been devoted to the systematics and natural history of bees. His first peer-reviewed publication was in 1934, at the age of 16. He received his B.S. in 1939 and his Ph.D. in Entomology in 1941, from the University of California, Berkeley. He remained in California until 1942, when he became an Assistant Curator of Lepidoptera at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In 1944 he published a classification system for bees that was soon adopted worldwide, and was in use until 1993 and 1995, when he co-authored new classifications. From 1943 to 1946, Michener also served as a First Lieutenant and Captain in the United States Army Sanitary Corps, where he researched insect-borne diseases, and described the life cycle of the common chigger. Michener joined the faculty of the University of Kansas in 1948 as Associate Professor of Entomology. He was chairman of the Entomology Department from 1949 to 1961, and then again from 1972 to 1975. He was awarded a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship in 1955, and again in 1966. He was awarded the Watkins Distinguished Professor of Entomology in 1958, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1965, and became Director of the Snow Entomological Museum (now a division within the University of Kansas Natural History Museum) in 1974. In February 2001, the Association of American Publishers gave its prestigious R.R. Hawkins Award for the Outstanding Professional Reference or Scholarly Work of 2000 to Michener's opus, *The Bees of the World*.^[3]

Michener's work on social evolution in the Halictidae in the 1960s helped set the stage for the sociobiology revolution of the 1970s, with E. O. Wilson relying to a great degree on Michener's concepts regarding the paths from solitary to highly social life. Along with his research activities and teaching, Michener was the editor of the academic journals *Evolution* from 1962 to 1964, the associate editor of the *Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics* from 1970 to 1985, and the American editor of *Insectes Sociaux* from 1954 to 1955, again from 1970 to 1985. He served as President of the Kansas Entomological Society in 1950, President of the Society for the Study of Evolution in 1967, President of the Society of Systematic Zoology in 1968, and President of the American Society of Naturalists in 1978. In 1977 he began his term as the President of the International Union for the Study of Social Insects and organized the 9th International Congress in 1982. He is also an honorary member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences. At the time of his retirement in 1989, Michener had already published over 340 articles and books, primarily on bee systematics and biology; in the same year, a fund was started with the University of Kansas Endowment

Charles Duncan Michener



Charles D. Michener at home, 2015

Born	22 September 1918 Pasadena, California, USA
Citizenship	United States
Nationality	 American
Fields	entomology
Institutions	University of Kansas
Alma mater	University of California, Berkeley
Thesis	<i>The External Morphology and the Phylogeny of Bees</i> (1942)
Doctoral advisor	Edward Oliver Essig
Doctoral students	Paul R. Ehrlich

Association for a scientific lecture series in Michener's name. As of 2014, Dr. Michener is still active and continues to publish.

Michener's long career has also included the training of more than 80 M.S. and Ph.D. students, among them Edward M. Barrows, Jim Baker, Suzanne W. T. Batra, Michael D. Breed, Denis Brothers, Jim Cane, Paul R. Ehrlich, Les Greenberg, William Gutierrez, Alexander Hawkins, Dwight Kamm, Robert Minkley, Rad Roberts, Thomas Snyder, Alvaro Wille, and Douglas Yanega.

References

- "Charles Michener". University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute. Retrieved 12 December 2013.
- Alan Weisman (2013 .). *Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?*. Check date values in: |date= (help)
- Charles Duncan Michener Book (http://books.google.co.uk/books?id=bu_1gmY13FIC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Charles+Duncan+Michener&hl=en&ei=SDEiTYnXEI2ShAely_22Dg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CCoQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q&f=false)

Selected bibliography

- Michener, C. D. (1974). *The Social Behavior of the Bees*. Harvard University Press. 404 pp.
- Michener, C. D. (2000). *The Bees of the World*. Johns Hopkins University Press. 913 pp.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Charles_Duncan_Michener&oldid=688633954"

Categories: 1918 births | Living people | American entomologists | Hymenopterists | Insect-borne diseases | Guggenheim Fellows | People associated with the American Museum of Natural History | Members of the United States National Academy of Sciences | Scientists from Kansas

-
- This page was last modified on 2 November 2015, at 03:43.
 - Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional 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.