

Bitte um Mithilfe

Wassermilben-Larven an Ruderwanzen

Die aquatisch lebenden Ruderwanzen (Heteroptera, Corixidae) werden von ektoparasitären Wassermilben-Larven (Gattungen *Hydrachna* und *Eylais*) befallen. Um zu klären, ob die flugfähigen Wanzen-Imagines zur Verbreitung der Wassermilben beitragen, werden Ruderwanzen mit angehefteten Milben-Larven aus **Lichtfängen** gesucht. Die an den Extremitäten oder dem Tergum angehefteten Milben-Larven erscheinen rot, doch nach der Konservierung schwindet die Färbung.

Wer solches Material aus Lichtfängen besitzt und es für Untersuchungszwecke zur Verfügung stellen kann, setze sich bitte in Verbindung mit:

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AUS MITGLIEDERKREISEN

Sir Vincent Wigglesworth, 1899-1994

Vincent Wigglesworth was the world's greatest insect physiologist and one of the most productive biological scientists of the century. His name is known to most students of invertebrate physiology through his comprehensive textbook "Principles of Insect Physiology" (1939), which has been updated in seven editions.

Born 17 April 1899, Vincent Brian Wigglesworth started his scientific work in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 1926 investigating some medically important insects, mainly the bug *Rhodnius prolixus*, vector of Chagas' disease. Later on, in 1945 he moved to Cambridge as Reader in Insect Physiology. He continued his experimental work on *Rhodnius* and made numerous discoveries in the field of insect morphology, physiology and endocrinology. Due to these findings the species became famous among entomologists as the "Wigglesworth's bug". The greatest scientific achievement of VBW was the elucidation of the role of corpus allatum and juvenile hormone in insect growth, development and reproduction (1936). His transplantation, implantation and parabiosis experiments on *Rhodnius* became classics in invertebrate endocrinology. Some older books of Wigglesworth on insect hormone action, "The

Physiology of Insect Metamorphosis" (1954) or "Insect Hormones" (1970) are still frequently used as valuable guides and exciting sources of information. He published over 300 original scientific papers, of which he was mostly the sole author. Insect endocrinology of other countries has been greatly influenced or directly originated from the work of Wigglesworth. The studies of insect hormones in the Czech Republic also started in his laboratory in Cambridge.

The first time I met Prof. Wigglesworth was on the occasion of the insect hormone conference in Prague 1959. He was a gentle, reserved and formal person with a wry sense of humour. His interpretation of scientific facts was strictly analytical, always very reasonable and based on a wide general knowledge. The miracle is that he continued to work actively for three and half decades maintaining the same enthusiasm, innovative spirit and humour, while most of us passed through the whole rise and fall of our scientific careers. When the synthetic analogues of juvenile hormone became available in the early sixties, it was again VBW who immediately elaborated the best methods for their evaluation in *Rhodnius*. The best illustration of the scientific potential of VBW was the way he recently shocked professionals working in insect respiration by a series of innovative papers on the functions of aeriferous tracheae, which were written when he was over 90. The last time I met Sir Vincent was in his room in Calus College, Cambridge, April 1992. We discussed in great depth the action of insect hormones. Wigglesworth is one of the few people who can be credited with creating and advancing some disciplines of science. He is the Father of Insect Physiology. Sir Vincent Wigglesworth died in Cambridge, 11 february 1994.

Karel Sláma

Sir Vincent Wigglesworth war Ehrenmitglied der Deutschen Gesellschaft für allgemeine und angewandte Entomologie. Wir werden ihm stets ein ehrendes Andenken bewahren.

BÜCHER UND FILME VON MITGLIEDERN (8)

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