

OBITUARY

HUBERT W. SIMMONDS

1877-1966

Hubert W. Simmonds, a prominent Pacific entomologist, died in Auckland, New Zealand, March 16, 1966 at the age of 89. He lived in Fiji for 47 years and contributed greatly to the economy of the country through his extensive travels in search of beneficial insects for the control of a number of serious pests in Fiji. A few of these countries included various islands of the South Pacific, Malaya, Java, Zanzibar, the West Indies and Mauritius. His intense love of nature as a boy in England, where he was born, particularly aroused his interest in insect life, which increased as he grew. He was a thoroughly self-trained entomologist, with no formal university training in this field and one of the few who advanced far with such a background. In 1902, he accepted an appointment in New Zealand, and during the following nine years made a large collection of New Zealand coleoptera which he donated to the Dominion Museum. In April, 1919 he was offered an appointment as an overseer on a rubber plantation in Fiji, which he apparently held without pay. His early recognition as an entomologist led to his appointment as Entomologist to the Fiji government in 1920, which post he officially held until retirement in 1937. But retirement meant nothing to him and much of his valuable service to Fiji was accomplished after retirement.

Mr. Simmonds had a large hand in the introduction of a predatory beetle from Java for control of the house fly, which proved of great importance. One of his outstanding accomplishments was the introduction of a thrips from Trinidad into Fiji for control of the serious pasture pest *Clidemia hirta*. Large pasture areas were restored to usefulness following the establishment of this insect. When this weed pest invaded Oahu, Hawaii, some years ago, this thrips was introduced from Fiji with promising results. In the 1920's Simmonds took a prominent part in the handling and distribution of parasites of the devastating coconut pest *Levuana iridescens*, which were introduced from Malaya, with striking results. Even during his last years in Fiji, he took a major part in the breeding and distribution of *Scolia ruficornis*, a parasite of the coconut rhinoceros beetle, which in recent years had invaded Fiji.

Mr. Simmonds was well known to many of the older entomologists of Hawaii and was always a kindly and gracious host to them when visiting Fiji. He is survived by his wife, who accompanied him on many of his foreign trips, a daughter, and a son, Dr. D. H. Simmonds of Brisbane, Australia.

C. E. Pemberton