

## OBITUARY

### **EDWARD HOLT EASON M.A., M.B.(Cantab.), F.L.S. 1915-1999**

Dr Edward Eason was born at Holmes Chapel in Cheshire in 1915, the son of a Manchester cotton broker. From an early age he was keen on natural history and country pursuits. He attended Malvern College where he came under the influence of Theodore Savory, the biology master, already a well-known naturalist and a student of the Arachnida. Edward was riding with the Cheshire hounds at 18. He went up to Cambridge, Pembroke College and joined the OTC Cavalry squadron. He read Medicine at Cambridge and completed his medical training at University College, London.

Dr. Eason served in the RAMC in India and Burma during the war and trained in field ambulances; he was in charge of horses and mules; he trained the animals, and the men to swim and has alarming tales of crossing the Irrawaddy, Chindwin and other rivers both in advancing and again in retreat. Dr. Eason had a critical mastoid operation as a youth. His deafness suffered during the harsh conditions of the campaign and he was invalided out to the Field Laboratory of Tropic Diseases at Maymya. Not with standing his disability and arduous active service he found time to make observations on hunting wasps, dung beetles and tree ants. These were subsequently published in the Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalist's Field Club (1975). After the war Dr. Eason served as a civilian pathologist for a few years but this was not to his taste and his deafness precluded General Practice.

After his marriage to Vivian Haynes in 1948 he took up farming and occupied Bourton Far Hill in the Cotswolds. I first met Edward in Manchester after we had begun corresponding, shortly after his paper on *Lithibius aulacopus* as new to Britain from near Windermere in the Lakes. Soon after I had the pleasure of visiting Ted and Vivian on their farm. He showed me his laboratory and also we had a tour of the farm. They specialised in beef cattle and horses. My visit came shortly after one of their horses, Airs and Graces, ridden by Sheila Wilcox, won the Badminton horse trials in 1959. Both Ted and Vivian rode with the hounds. Ted was an advocate and practitioner of natural farming, using as few inorganic fertilisers as possible and retaining horse power for the ploughing.

The first of three landmarks in Dr. Eason's rise to pre-eminence in the study of Chilopoda was the publication of his monograph Centipedes of the British Isles Frederick Warne, 1964, pp294, 490 Figs, 5 Plates, which still remains the standard work; originally priced at £3.3.0 and now on the rare occasion that a copy comes on the market, will be priced at around £80. The book is notable for the great care and precision of the authors own figures and text. It is dedicated to Theodore Savory, for inspiring him with an interest in Arthropoda.

The second landmark was the award in 1980 of the Stamford Raffles Prize for amateur research, by the Zoological Society of London for "distinguished work on the taxonomy of centipedes". At this time, Eason had published 27 papers including

species from Siberia, Hawaii, Seychelles, Sardinia and Majorca. In a paper presented to the second International Congress of Myriapoda in Manchester in 1972 on Certain Aspects of Generic Classification of the Lithobiidae with Special Reference to Geographical Distribution Eason writes "A revised classification of the Lithobiidae is obviously required but will be a vast undertaking....a compromise between the lumping of Attems and the splitting of Chamberlain....should enable the Lithobiidae to make their due contribution to zoogeographical knowledge".

The third landmark, or rather phase, consisted of a further 28 publications based on collections from Papua, Macaronesian Islands, Afghanistan, Thailand, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Falkland Isles, Kurile Islands and European countries. These papers go a large part of the way to completing the 'vast undertaking' he referred to in 1974. The last paper, on Kirghizia and Kazakhstan, he says "is my swan song....shall not be writing more as my eye sight and manual dexterity are both failing" – this note in his 82<sup>nd</sup> year!

Dr Eason attended many of the International Congresses in Myriapodology; to many of these we travelled together and I valued his amiable companionship. The last I remember was our trip to Innsbruck in 1990. This included a lightening dash between Paddington and Victoria (Ted was 75) just catching the last train to Moreton-in-Marsh; I stayed the night at Bourton Far Hill; the next day he took me on a tour of the trees he had planted, partly as a means of earning a little semi-retirement from farming.

Many students of the Chilopoda, from many parts of the world visited Bourton Far Hill. Both Ted and his visitors enjoyed the newly sylvan aspect of much of his land. It is with deep respect and admiration that many of his friends will bid their farewells to our elder Statesman of Myriapodology. Dr Eason leaves a daughter, Marian and a grandson.

J. Gordon Blower

**E.H. EASON**

**LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

1. 1951. Notes on the Chilopoda (Centipedes of Warwickshire & Worcestershire). *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (12) 4: 257-268.
2. 1953. Centipedes (Chilopoda). *Proc. Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club.* 31: 61-62.
3. 1953. On *Lithobius aulacopus* Latzel, a centipede new to Britain. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (12) 6: 850-854.
4. 1957. The centipedes (Chilopoda) of East Sussex. *Hastings & East Sussex Naturalist.* 8: 204-210.
5. 1957. Chilopoda and Diplopoda from Caernarvonshire. *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 129: 273-291.
6. 1958. Millipedes (Diplopoda) and Centipedes (Chilopoda). *Proc. Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club*, 3pp.
7. 1958. Notes on the Diplopoda of Warwickshire and Worcestershire. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (13) 1: 90-96.
8. 1961. On the synonymy of some British centipedes. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (13) 4: 385-391.
9. 1962. The chilopod genus *Nesoporogaster* Verhoeff. *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.* 138: 123-132.
10. 1964. *Centipedes of the British Isles.* London: Warne. Pp I-x, 1-294, 495 figs.
11. 1965. On *Lithobius tricuspis* Meinert (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha) in Britain. *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (13) 8: 285-295.
12. 1970. The Chilopoda and Diplopoda of Iceland. *Entomol. scand.* 1: 47-54.
13. 1970. A redescription of the species of *Eupolybothrus* Verhoeff, s.s. preserved in the British Museum (Natural History) and the Hope Department of Entomology, Oxford (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Zool)* 19: 287-310.
14. 1970. On certain characters used to separate species and subspecies in the Lithobiidae. *Bull. Mus. natn. Hist. nat.* 41 Suppl. No. 2: 58-60.

15. 1970. Eason, E.H. On *Brachyschendyla dentata* Brol. Et Rib., a centipede new to Britain. *J. nat. Hist.* **4**: 79-84. With A.D. Barber.
16. 1972. The type specimens and identity of the species described in the genus *Lithobius* by George Newport in 1844, 1845 and 1849 (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Zool)*. **21**: 297-311.
17. 1972. The type specimens and identity of the species described in the genus *Lithobius* by C.L. Koch and L. Koch 1841-1878. *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Zool)*. **22**: 105-150.
18. 1973. The type specimens and identity of the species described in the genus *Lithobius* by R.I. Pocock 1890-1901 (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist. (Zool)*. **25**: 41-83.
19. 1974. On certain aspects of the generic classification of the Lithobiidae, with special reference to geographic distribution. *Symp. zool. Soc. Lond.* No. **32**: 65-73.
20. 1974. The type specimens and identity of the species described in the genus *Lithobius* by F. Meinert and now preserved in the Zoological Museum, Copenhagen University (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *J. Linn. Soc. (Zool)*. **55**: 1-52.
21. 1975. On Lithobiidae from Majorca with a description of a new species of *Lithobius* (Chilopoda: Lithobiomorpha). *J. nat. Hist.* **2**: 445-456.
22. 1976. The type specimens and identity of the Siberian species described in the genus *Lithobius* by Anton Stuxberg in 1876 (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *J. Linn. Soc. (Zool)*. **58**: 91-127.
23. 1976. Eason, E.H. The identity of the species described by F. Fanzago and G. Fedrizzi from 1876 to 1881 (Chilopoda: Lithobiomorpha). *Fragm. entom.* **12**: 183-205. With A. Minelli.
24. 1977. On *Lithobius melanops* in North America. *Ent. mon. Mag.* (1976) **112**: 65-66.
25. 1977. A redescription of the type specimens of *Lithobius hawaiiensis* Silvestri, 1904 with a note on the Hawaiian Lithobiidae. *J. nat. Hist.* **11**: 485-492.
26. 1978. On Lithobiidae from the Seychelles with description of two new species of the subgenus *Australobius*, genus *Lithobius* (Chilopoda, Lithobiomorpha). *J. Zool. Lond.* **184**: 21-34.
27. 1978. The effect of the environment on the numbers of trunk segments in the Geophilomorpha with special reference to *Geophilus carpophagus* Leach., In Camatini, M. (Ed). *Myriapod Biology*. London: Academic. Pp. 233-240.

28. 1980. On Lithobiidae from Sardinia (Chilopda: Lithobiomorpha). *Bull. Zool. Mus. Univ. Amsterdam* 7:125-131.
29. 1980. Zoological results of the British Speleological Expedition to Papua New Guinea: 1975. A new species of the sub genus *Australobius*, genus *Lithobius*, from Papua New Guinea. *Myriapodologica* 1: 41-46.
30. 1981. On some new and little known Southern Asiatic species of Lithobiidae. *Entomol. scand.* 12: 327-338.
31. 1982. A review of the northwest European species of Lithobiomorpha with a revised key to their identification. *J. Linn. Soc.* 74: 9-33.
32. 1983. The identity of the European and Mediterranean species of Lithobiidae described by K. W. Verhoeff and now represented by material preserved in the British Museum (Natural History). *Zool. J. Linn. Soc.* 77: 111-144.
33. 1984. The Lithobiomorpha of the Macaronesian islands. *Entomol. scand.* 15(3): 387-400.
34. 1985. On the status of *Lithobius carinipes* Daday, *L. californicus* Dady and *L. filicium* Attems; three little known Nearctic species of Lithobiidae. *Myriapodologica* 2: 1-6.
35. 1986. On the synonymy of *Lithobius giganteus* Sseliwanoff, 1881 and the taxonomical status of *Porabius* Attems, 1926. *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien* 87(B): 181-192.
36. 1986. On the Lithobiidae from Afghanistan with descriptions of three new species of the subgenus *Ezembius*, genus *Lithobius*. *Steenstrupia* 12(2): 49-60.
37. 1986. The Lithobiidae of Thailand with descriptions of six new species of *Lithobius* and a new subspecies of *Australobius feae* (Pocock, 1891). *Steenstrupia* 12: 129-151.
38. 1986. On the distribution of *Lithobius variegatus* Leach and the identity of *Lithobius rubripes* Newport. *J. Nat. Hist.* 20(1): 23-30.
39. 1987. A secondary sexual character in *Lithobius crassipes* L. Koch in Miscellanea. *Bull. Brit. Myr. Grp.* 4: 52.
40. 1989. Lithobiidae from the Nepal Himalayas with descriptions of ten new species of *Lithobius* and *Australobius*. *Zool. Jb. Syst.* 116: 353-372.
41. 1990. On *Lithobius sitianus* Chamberlin. A cavernicolous centipede from Crete. *Frag. Entomol. Roma* 22(2): 257-264.
42. 1990. On the true identity of *Geophilus insculptus* Attems, 1895. *Bull. Br. Myr. Grp.* 7: 3-4.

43. 1991. Distribution of the centipedes *Lithobius obscurus* Meinert and *L. peregrinus* Latzel. *Ent. mon. Mag.* **127**:23.
44. 1991. A new species of centipede, *Lithobius (Monotarsobius) blascoi* n.sp. from Spain. *Misc. Zool.* **15**: 179-183.
45. 1992. On the identity of *Lithobius cateivagus* Verhoeff and *Hessebius matsakisi* Matic & Stavropoulos. *Biologia Gallo-Hellenica* **19(1)**: 75-76.
46. 1992. On the taxonomy and geographical distribution of the Lithobiomorpha. *Ber. nat. med. Verein Innsbruuck Suppl.* **10**:1-9.
47. 1992. The Lithobiomorpha of the Canary Islands. *Entomol. Scand.* **23**:1-9. With H. Enghoff.
48. 1992. Indigenous centipedes from Azorean caves and larva flows. *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Soc.* **105**:407-429. With N.P. Ashmole.
49. 1993. Description of four new species of *Lithobius* from the oriental region and a re-description of *Astrolobius palnis* (Eason, 1973) from Sri Lanka. *Boll. Mus. civ. St. nat. Verona* **17**: 181-200.
50. 1993. A new species of *Anopsobius* from the Falkland Islands with commentary on the geographical distribution of the genus. *Myriapodologica* **2**: No. 12: 83-89.
51. 1993. Displacement of the male secondary sexual characters in *Lithobius calcaratus* C.L. Koch and other species of *Lithobius*. *Bull. Br. Myr. Grp.* **9**: 21-23.
52. 1994. *Lithobius quadridentatus* Menge, 1851, the senior synonym of *L. piceus* L. Koch, 1862. *Bull. Br. Myr. Grp.* **10**: 49-50.
53. 1995. Opinion 1516. *Lithobius piceus* L. Koch: Specific name conserved. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* **52(3)**: 278.
54. 1996. The rediscovery of *Australobius scabrior* Chamberlin. *Australian Entomologist* **23**: 91-92.
55. 1996. Lithobiomorpha from Sakhalin Island, the Kamchatka peninsula, and the Kurile Islands. *Arthropoda Selecta* **5**: 117-123.
56. 1997. On some Lithobiomorpha from the mountains of Kirghizia and Kazakhstan. *Arthropoda Selecta* **6**: 117-121.