

## OBITUARY TO J. LAURENS BARNARD (1928-1991)



The largest account of amphipods in Northwestern Mexico is attributed to the highly productive life of one individual, Jerry L. Barnard. His contribution to amphipod taxonomy is one of the largest efforts ever done by a single researcher in the field of carcinology.

Born and raised in California, his undergraduate research at the USC began on corals in collaboration with J. W. Durham. Later R. J. Menzies and J. W. Garth would focus his attention on crustaceans, and suggested him the amphipods. He continued his studies in 1949 at University of Southern California (USC); received his Master's degree in 1955 and his Ph. D. in 1953. From 1953 to 1956 he was a postdoctoral fellow working in the Central Arctic Basin. His

initial field work and visits to several areas around the world during the early stages of his career provided him with a broad conceptual base of amphipod morphology, distribution and taxonomy.

He joined the Beaudette Foundation in 1958 as an Associate Investigator and became Associate Research Director from 1960-1964. During this time he undertook many research trips. His major contribution to the Baja California Peninsula took place during this period. In 1964 he accepted a job at the National Museum of Natural History as Associate Curator of Crustacea. Since 1967 several postings took him to the Bishop Museum in Hawaii (1967-1968), the New Zealand Oceanographic Institute at Wellington (1968) and the West Australian Museum in Perth (1968) that resulted in a series of comprehensive faunal monographs.

From 1970-1974 he was on loan to the University of Arizona where he met Rick Brusca and helped to strengthen the taxonomy collections in the Sea of Cortes.

All aspects of amphipods were considered in his papers. Three major syntheses of the group were produced and are consulted by all researchers and students in Amphipods. The first, published in 1969, became in the years to come a benchmark in the field. In 1983 he published on freshwater amphipods. His last syntheses, 1991, was a recent update of his 1969 monograph that included 5 733 species.

His major contributions to amphipod taxonomy are more than 225 publications on the group, 15 of which are his work in Mexican waters. He described more than 890 new species, 242 new genera and fourteen new families (Thomas, 1992). At least twenty species have bee in his honor by several worldwide experts. He died August 1991 after a day of field and laboratory work in the Florida Keys. A tribute by his friends and colleagues was carried out on a Memorial Service and Symposium in his honor on April 9-10, 1992 at the National Museum of Natural History.

My first contact with Jerry was in 1984 as a graduate student of the National University (ICMyL-UNAM) when I requested advise in the identification of amphipods of Terminos Lagoon, Campeche, southern Gulf of Mexico. As another of the hundreds of researches and students that steadily streamed his laboratory, he gave me a space to work during several days in the summer and early fall of 1985. He studied patiently my material and solved all my doubts in amphipod taxonomy. Despite my studies followed in the direction of the taxonomy of other groups of crustaceans and functional ecology of benthic communities, our correspondence continued. I agree with Jim Thomas's words, and consider him a warm and gencrous man, that encouraged and inspired my work in the group.

His scientific and personal legacy has provided a baseline for future generations. Nearly every paper that will be reached to identify amphipods of tropical and subtropical environments will be his.

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