

In an attempt to answer some of Dr. Lindquist's questions, his letters were forwarded to Dr. Harold Denmark, Florida, USA, for further comment. Dr. Denmark, a well-known phytoseiid mite taxonomist, is quite familiar with the life and work of Don De Leon and happily offered to share his memories with IJA readers. He writes as follows:

"Dear Vik: Evert's comments on Dr. Don De Leon are much the same as mine. Don was not only enigmatic, he was very frugal. His estate was worth over \$250,000 at his death. He never married, but lived with his sister and one cat. His frugality carried over into his work. He used a monocular microscope to do his drawings. He was accurate in his drawings and concise in his descriptions. He was a loner in his social life and his research, seldom asking for opinions or help. I don't think he wanted to be obligated to anyone. The last time I visited Don was at the Tennessee mountain home that he built himself. Don did not share much information about his research with either Martin Muma (deceased) or me. It just suddenly appeared in print. We offered to take him with us on collecting trips or help him in any way we could. He did not want supplies or anything from us. Very independent! He took several trips with his sister to Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. He collected in small containers, brought leaves and twigs back, and examined them under a microscope. He kept good field notes and had many vials of alcoholic specimens. I have the field notes and vials of mites, which had mostly dried out when we picked up his collection. Don published a lot of his mite papers in the Florida Entomologist, a journal that reduced the drawings to the point of not being able to clearly see some of the details. Thankfully the journal has gone to a larger format now. Don's work in the Philippines was mostly on the disease of coconut called 'cadang-cadang,' which means 'dead-dead.' I believe you have the information on his last two publications and the location of his type specimens. If I can help further, please let me know. I might add that he never went to see a medical doctor and when he finally did the cancer was found throughout his body. The doctors said it was too late to do anything for him. He was a smoker but it is not known if cancer was due to his smoking. Regards to Evert. Harold."

**(Editorial comment** - Acarologistology is a term that was coined by Vikram Prasad, founder and present Managing Editor of IJA, in his book "Memories of Acarology in Color" (2004) to describe the study of acarologists themselves. Over the years, several biographical articles have been published in IJA, where they invariably elicit favorable responses from readers. It is important that we know and appreciate the challenges faced by our predecessors, and for this reason it is IJA policy to complement original research papers with contributions from the human side of science. We would be pleased to receive and publish additional memories of Dr. Donald De Leon or other acarologists featured in IJA or elsewhere).

**OBITUARIES** - (1) Dr. William A. Bruce passed away on Wednesday, 7 March 2007, at Howard County General Hospital in Columbia, Maryland. He was 65. Bill was born in Burlington, Vermont, and was lovingly adopted by the late Cedric and Ethel Bruce. He grew up in Poughkeepsie, New York, where he made many lifelong friends. His undergraduate education was at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York. He received his master's and Ph.D. degrees from The Ohio State University, where he met his first wife, Susan. After a short post-doctoral period at the University of Florida, he was hired as a Research Acarologist by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working for several years at the Stored Products Insects Laboratory in Savannah, Georgia. In 1989, Bill moved to Maryland, where he met and married the love of his life, Nancy Jensen, now deceased. Bill worked for several years on bee mites in the Bee Research Lab, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. He also investigated *Pyemotes*-ant associations. His tireless work ethic yielded admirable expertise in rearing and studying agriculturally important mites. Bill Bruce was internationally well known and respected in his field, and retired in June 1997 after 26 years of service. Outside of work, he was an avid sailor and beekeeper who enjoyed sharing his honey. He is survived by his son John, his daughter Lisa, son-in-law David, grandsons Justin and Matthew, his sister Barbara, his former wife Susan, and countless cousins. (2) Dr. Juan B. Morales-Malacara ([jbmm@hp.fciencias.unam.mx](mailto:jbmm@hp.fciencias.unam.mx)), Mexico City, has informed us of the death of Dr. Anita Hoffmann, the mother of Mexican acarology, on Thursday, 11 October 2007, after a short illness. As a specialist on parasitic mites, Dr. Hoffmann trained many students, who have continued her work and maintained her rigorous professional standards. She attended the International Congress of Acarology in Mexico, where she was honored for her research and for her textbook of acarology. (3) Dr. Tetsuo Gotoh ([gotoh@mx.ibaraki.ac.jp](mailto:gotoh@mx.ibaraki.ac.jp)), Ibaraki, Japan, has notified us of the death of Dr. Hans Mori, Emeritus Professor at Hokkaido University, on 21 September 2007, at age 79. Dr. Mori suffered a cerebral infarction, which is often the result of uncontrolled blood pressure, diabetes, or a brain aneurysm. Other factors are also known to cause such infarctions, leading to sudden death or paralysis on one side of the body. According to Dr. Vikram Prasad, M.D. and acarologist, help should immediately be sought in case of numbness on one side of the body or slurred speech. Dr. Mori was known for his work on phytophagous mites. He was a pioneer researcher in biological control, introducing *Phytoseiulus persimilis* to Japan, and using indigenous phytoseiid mites to control native spider mites. He trained many Japanese acarologists in biocontrol techniques. Dr. Gotoh writes: "I obtained my Ph.D. degree in 1984 under Dr. Mori's supervision. I respected him so much that I called him 'Mori sensei,' the most honorable title for a mentor or teacher in Japanese (in India, this would be the equivalent of a 'Guru,' or supreme teacher). However, he never liked to be addressed as 'sensei' and preferred to remain a researcher on the same footing as his students." Dr. Gotoh continues: "Dr. Hans Mori's name will stand forever among the immortals of acarology."