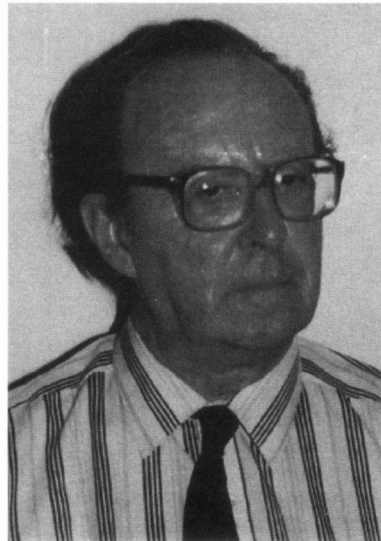


LUIS E. PEÑA GUZMAN

In the early morning of September 27, 1996, Luis Enrique Peña Guzmán passed away at the age of 74. He was the victim of a bone cancer which ended his life after two months of suffering. Not only Chile, but also international entomology have lost one of the most important and knowledgeable entomologists; nobody knew better than he the fauna of his native country, and also that of the neighbouring countries in the New World. All who knew him, all who were accompanied by him during expeditions he managed, will agree that his contributions to their success were most decisive; amongst these were also some odonatologists.

He was a self-taught person in the best sense of the word, and one of the last universal field scientists. At the early age of 19 years, he became a member of the "Sociedad Chilena de Entomología"; later he served as the Vice President and the Secretary for several years and was also a member of 17 other academic and scientific societies, some of which he had founded himself. Three consecutive times he was named as "Associate Investigator" and "Curator Affiliate in Zoology" of the Peabody Museum of Yale Uni-



versity, and he was "Associate Scientist of Entomology" of the American Museum of Natural History in New York until his death. For nine years he worked at the Faculty of Forestry and Agricultural Sciences of the University of Chile.

His enormous knowledge of entomology, general zoology and botany, which he acquired during 500 excursions in several South American countries, resulted not only in about 100 publications, most of which dealt with entomology (Lepidoptera, Coleoptera, especially Tenebrionidae, also Odonata), but also with other animal and plant groups. He increased the number of animals known from Chile by about 15% (even including a mammal!). These activities were acknowledged not only by the above mentioned honours: more than 400 insect species (and several genera) were named after him; he himself described more than 100 species as new. In spite of his short publication list he had a great interest in Odonata, and he contributed material for some of the author's publications.

He also tried to share his knowledge with other people; he was the author of contributions for television, of popular scientific publications and even of teaching texts for children.

Luis Peña will remain in the memory of all who knew him as a friendly and helpful man, and as a knowledgeable field scientist, who knew every corner of his country; those who try to devalue him as a "business man" should also remember that a scientist is unable to live just by his reputation alone.

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G. J u r z i z a, Reinmuthstr. 27, D-76187 Karlsruhe, Germany