

in a simple, WYSIWYG text box. A jpg image may also be uploaded. There are checks in place to prevent multiple observations on the same species within a seven day period and within 0.25° in any cardinal direction. In turn, these observations are immediately mapped among all others' submissions, charts are updated, and the entire content of the submitted observation is made publicly available. Much like a blog or a forum, individual observations may receive comments from other WebWatchers. At any time, WebWatchers may edit or delete their own submissions or comments and there are volunteer WebWatch Administrators who may edit or delete any submitted observation or comment. There is also a rich selection of RSS feeds for participants to keep an eye on activities or for 3rd parties to mix and mash the data into their projects.

Like any citizen science initiative, participation is dependent on awareness, good content, and a simple, highly interactive system. To that end, announcements have been made on various naturalist listservs, to all EMAN (Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Network) participants, and websites that compile citizen science initiatives. You are encouraged to participate and spread the word. If you have your own website, a Spider WebWatch button with copy/paste HTML code is available. Content is always under development and I am currently working on educational lesson plans for all age groups, field guides, and quizzes. The former will be highly interactive activities that introduce children to behavioural ecology, biodiversity monitoring, systematics, and computation. If you would like to know more about these, you are welcome to drop me a line.

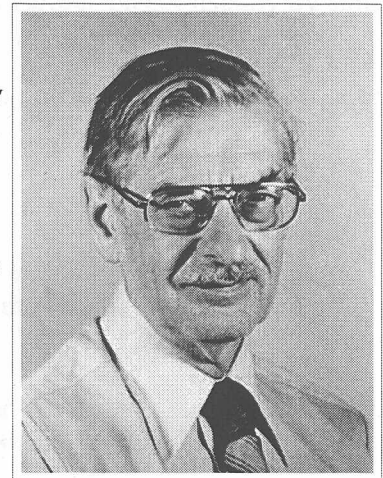
Visit Spider WebWatch at <http://www.spiderwebwatch.org> and get started!

REMINISCENCES ABOUT BERT TURNBULL

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I first corresponded with Dr. A. L. Turnbull in December 1969 when I was looking for a university at which to do a Ph.D. Dr. Turnbull was in the Pestology Centre, Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University (SFU) and the only university professor in Canada working with non-Acari arachnids. I was completing a M.Sc. at the University of Saskatchewan on harvestmen and wanted to work on another arachnid group. We corresponded a few times about the requirements needed for my entry to SFU and what research project I should undertake. In one of his letters, he stated "It would be preferable if you worked on [a certain species of spider], but this would not be mandatory. I prefer receiving a student who knows what he wants to do, and when this is the case I give him a free hand to do it his own way." I learned that this carte blanche attitude was typical of his way of handling students.



In June 1970, I took a train to SFU and met briefly with Bert Turnbull. I also met with Mike Hardman, a graduate student who was working on feeding responses of a lycosid spider, as well as another student who, after some travelling, was going to work on the visual system of the same spider. Rather than attending the University of Alberta, where I had already been accepted but would be the only student working on arachnids, I decided to attend SFU and join these two graduate students to work together on various aspects of predation. Although Mike and I completed our

doctoral theses (Hardman 1972, Holmberg 1978), I did not see the third graduate student again. She never returned to SFU from her travels.

I arrived at SFU in January 1970 and stayed until August 1974 when, with an incomplete thesis, I was hired by Athabasca University in Edmonton.

In 1971-72, I helped Bert collect and collate the literature for his review of spider ecology (Turnbull, 1973). In doing so, I learned a great deal about these arachnids. I also assisted in some of his ecology classes. For such work, I received up to \$3,000 per year from his National Research Council grant.

Like many faculty in the Pestology Centre, Bert's lab was two portable units (i.e. trailers) joined at one end to form a "U". In one of the drawers of the lab benches there was a partial bottle of whiskey that remained untouched for many months. Mike and I wondered about this mystery bottle until Mike finally asked Bert about it. It turned out that the bottle came from a distillery with a request to identify an insect that was supposedly found in the bottle by a couple of consumers. The insect was a lacewing and so was probably added to the bottle after it was opened.

Bert was a very private individual with a bit of a gruff exterior. He worked primarily in his office and seldom visited his lab. He never invited his students to his home. Although he seldom spoke of his personal experiences, Bert once related that, when he was at Oxford University doing his doctorate, graduate students were expected to construct a piece of equipment for their research. He made a micro-balance which he used to weigh his spiders. As usual, such equipment became part of the department's assets. On other occasions, he joked about how his wife, Irene, and he tried to have the national average of 2.4 children but ended up with three!

After leaving SFU for Edmonton, work commitments and other things delayed my thesis defence for four years. After the defence, Bert kept some *Pardosa vancouveri* in the lab and fed them on certain prey combinations that I had not done. This extra information provided a more complete picture of prey choice in the paper derived from my thesis (Holmberg and Turnbull 1982).

A year or so later, Bert retired. For several years, he and Irene traveled to various places usually by ship freighter. Our correspondence deteriorated to exchanges of Christmas cards.

Bert had an incredible intellect. He was an insightful critic, wrote exceedingly well and was also a good illustrator; though he seldom used the latter talent. I miss his wit.

Cited References

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- Holmberg, R.G. 1978. Selective predation in a polyphagous invertebrate predator, *Pardosa vancouveri* (Arachnida, Araneae). Ph.D. Thesis, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C.
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