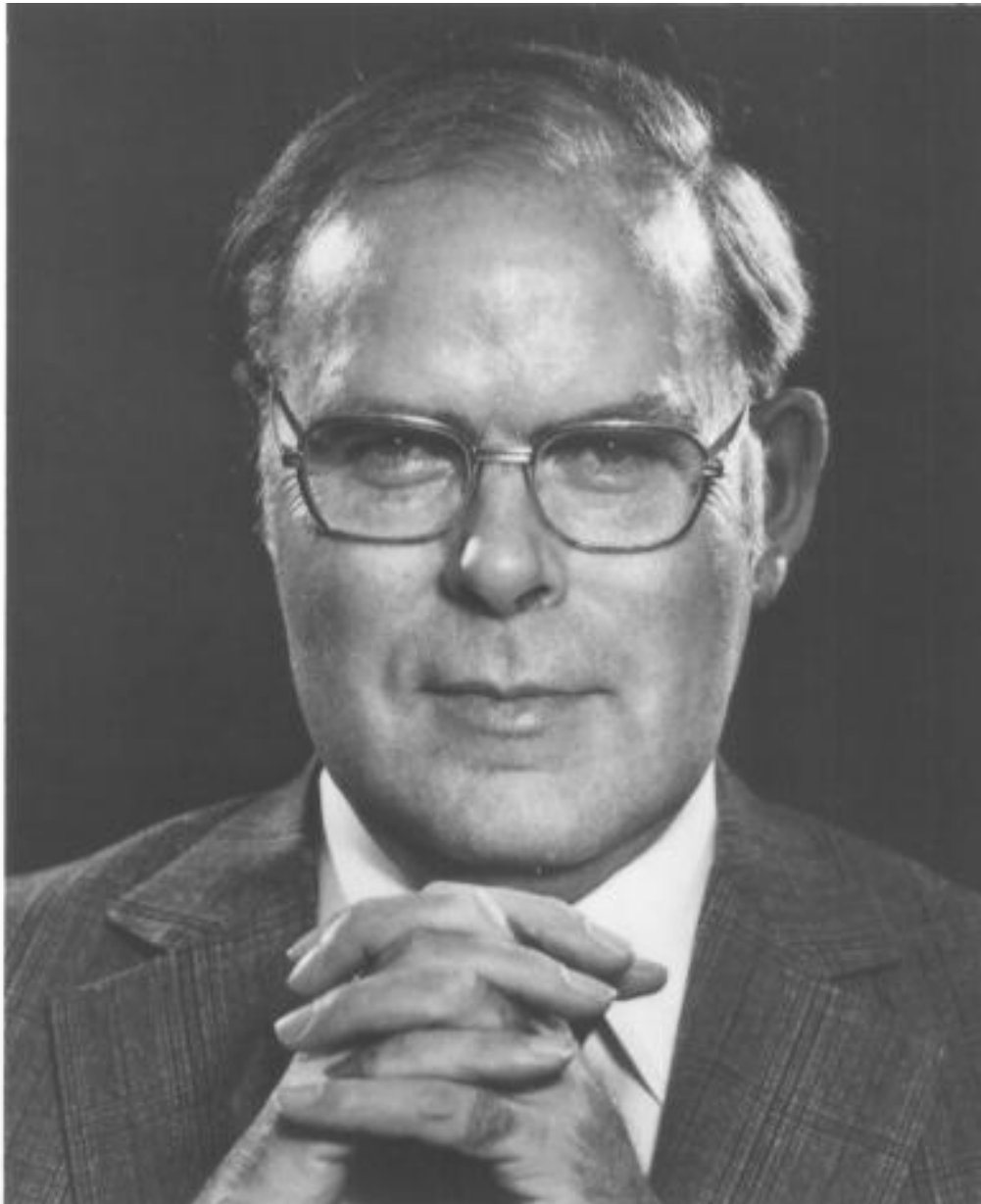


Eugene G. Munroe
1919-2008



Gene Munroe was born on September 8, 1919, in Detroit, Michigan, and immigrated with his parents to Montreal, Canada in 1927. He received his BSc in 1940 and a MSc in Entomology in 1941 from McGill University. In 1948 he received his PhD from Cornell University for his work on the biogeography, of West Indian butterflies. Among ecologists, Gene is best known for this dissertation work, which featured his discovery of the "Equilibrium Theory of Island Biogeography". In evolutionary ecology this is one of few theories that withstood scrutiny and scepticism. Despite the fact Dr. Munroe received little recognition for his discovery; he continued to conduct biogeographic studies in insects.

After finishing his PhD, Dr. Munroe was hired as a research scientist in the Systematics Unit, later the Biosystematics Research Institute, of the Canada Department of Agriculture (now Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) in 1950 (he retired in 1979). He eventually focussed his work on the worldwide study and classification of the superfamily of moths, Pyraloidea, beginning with solving taxonomic problems in North American genera. Dr. Munroe was ahead of his time with regards to type-imaging, although the technology was not quite yet available to him and his colleagues who also felt this was extremely important to the field of systematics. He was the first to photograph type specimens of pyraloidea from diverse museums worldwide and this allowed him to sort and place species correctly and ultimately allow him to develop more natural generic concepts. In 1953, he was a founding member of a "type-figuring subsection" committee at the meeting of the International Union of Biological Sciences held in Nice. Later, he described the function of this committee and offered for sale the first 50 photos of type specimens at the Canadian National Collection (at the time there was no internet for type specimen websites).

Dr. Gene Munroe was the acknowledged authority on the Pyraloidea worldwide for many years. For nearly three decades, he was one of the few people publishing in the Pyraloidea. His contribution to the systematic knowledge of Pyraloidea includes over 170 research papers and to this day is unparalleled. One of his greatest contributions was that he placed taxa in the correct subfamily, using species catalogues as the venue. His work was diverse, including type specimen catalogues and designations, faunistic and revisionary works, and new species descriptions. His faunistic work was global in scope.

Dr. Munroe was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Silver Medal by the Canadian Government in 1968 for his service as Principal Science Advisor and Head of Studies in the Science Secretariat, Privy Council Office. He participated in a broad array of the activities of numerous scientific societies. He served as a Member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature from June 1961 to March 1975. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, Emeritus Member of the Entomological Society of America, member of Sigma Xi and the Entomological Society of Washington. He was Honorary Member of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club in recognition of outstanding contributions to Canadian Natural History or to the successful operation of the club. He was an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of Canada, President from 1963-64, Editor of *The Canadian Entomologist* from 1958-1961, and awarded the society's Gold Medal in 1982. He was a Charter and Honorary Life Member of the Lepidopterists' Society and its President in 1958.

Dr. Munroe was Editor-in-Chief of the *Moths of America North of Mexico* (MONA) from 1976 to 1982. He was Managing Director of the Wedge Entomological Research Foundation from 1974 to 1984, and remained on the Board of Directors until 2000. He was also a Charter Member and served on the Board of Directors of the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera. In 1998, Dr. Munroe received the Jacob Hubner Award, "In Recognition of Significant Contributions for the Advancement of Systematics of Lepidoptera," from the Association for Tropical Lepidoptera. In 2004, he received the Karl Jordan medal from The Lepidopterists' Society.

Gene Munroe passed away May 31, 2008 at the age of 89 in Ontario, Canada.

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(Author's title given as of the time of writing)