10-20-1944

Dr. William Williams Henderson (1879–1944)

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Recommended Citation
Tanner, Vasco M. (1944) "Dr. William Williams Henderson (1879–1944)," Great Basin Naturalist: Vol. 5 : No. 1 , Article 3. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/gbn/vol5/iss1/3

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It is with a distinct note of sadness that we record the death, on October 31, 1944, of Dr. W. W. Henderson, head of the Department of Zoology and Entomology at Utah State Agricultural College, Logan, Utah. Utah academic folk and scientists have lost a wise counselor, a sought after companion, and a most capable teacher. For forty years he was extremely popular as a teacher, and students at the Brigham Young College and Utah State Agricultural College sought his counsel and guidance. He gave freely of his time and energy in service to his fellow men. His kindly spirit motivated for good the lives of all his associates. May his spirit abide in the lives of those on whom he spent it.

Dr. Henderson was born May 23, 1879 at Clarkston, Cache County, Utah, a son of James and Mary Watkins Williams Henderson. He attended the Cache County schools and was graduated from the Brigham Young College at Logan in 1903 with a bachelor's degree. He received his master's degree from Cornell University two years later.

He taught at the Brigham Young College until 1909 when he was appointed President of the Weber Academy at Ogden (now the Weber Junior College) where he served until 1913 at which time he became a member of the Utah State Agricultural College faculty. In 1919 Dr. Henderson was honored by being named President of the Brigham Young College where he remained until 1926 when he rejoined the Utah State College faculty.

In 1925 Dr. Henderson received his doctor of philosophy degree in Entomology from the University of California. In 1928 he played a major role in the founding of the Logan Latter-day Saint Institute where he served as first Director and teacher for one year.

Dr. Henderson married Survina Wheeler at Logan on June 26, 1901; to them were born two sons and seven daughters. Mrs. Henderson, all of their children and six brothers and sisters survive him.

As an Entomologist, Dr. Henderson was well trained, careful and accurate in dealing with research problems and always reluctant to publish his findings until they were thoroughly verified through field and laboratory study. Because of his conscientiousness and ability as a teacher, much of his time was consumed in preparation for class work. As a result his research work and publishing was greatly neglected.
Hind femora length:
Average for 100 specimens 14 mm.
Shortest femur in 100 specimens 12 mm.
Longest femur in 100 specimens 18 mm.

Tegmina length:
Average for 100 specimens 19 mm.
Shortest tegmina for 100 specimens 14 mm.
Longest tegmina for 100 specimens 24 mm.

d. Geographical Distribution:

*Melanoplus mexicanus* (Saussure) (7) was described in 1861 from specimens collected in Old Mexico. In 1875, Riley (12) discovered the species in Missouri and described it under the name *Caloptenus atlantis*. In 1876, he (14) discovered it in Illinois. In 1883, Bruner (21) gave the distribution as “Northern United States and British America.” By 1897, when Scudder (25) published his “Revision of Melanopli,” he had information placing the species in many localities in Canada and Mexico and all the states in the United States except New York, Rhode Island, Delaware, West Virginia, Florida, Ohio, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, Oklahoma and North Dakota. Scudder’s Index of 1901 (27) added Kansas, Arkansas and North Dakota to the territory. Caudell (29) added Oklahoma in 1902, and Mead (31) added Ohio in 1904, Morse (32) added Tennessee in the same year.

Riley (23) found the species in 1891 extending northward in North America “nearly to the Arctic Circle” and the “Yukon River,” Scudder (26) found by 1898 “it practically covers the whole of North America north of Mexico and is found far within Mexico itself.” Hebard (46) says in 1925, “It is generally distributed over all (North America) but the tropical lowlands of Mexico, reaching Northward over all the United States except peninsular Florida and California west of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is reported from Yukon River and Alaska.”

There are 450 males and 353 females represented in the collection at the Utah State Agricultural College, taken in all the counties of the state except Garfield.


The collections date from 1907 to 1942. Earliest collection date
Following is a list of his scientific papers, all of which were published within the state of Utah:

W. W. HENDERSON

1924. A taxonomic and ecological study of the species of the subfamily Oedipodinae (Orthoptera-Acrididae found in Utah. Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. Technical Bulletin No. 191: 1-150.


1933. Grasshopper control in Utah. Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. Leaflet No. 5: 1-2.

W. W. HENDERSON and ELINDON GARDNER


W. W. HENDERSON and ALEXANDER LEVI


W. W. HENDERSON


