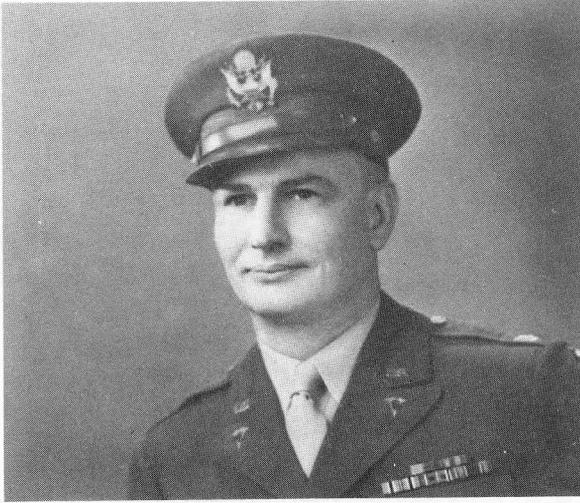


## OBITUARIES



**Emory C. Cushing**

**1897-1974**

Emory C. Cushing, a prominent medical and veterinary entomologist, died at Floresville, Texas, on April 8, 1974. Memorial services were held at Stockdale where he lived with his wife Deniza, following early retirement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1946. Mr. Cushing was born in Grafton, Nebr., on Dec. 4, 1897, and died at the age of 76.

Emory made notable contributions to entomology in both research and in the administration of research programs. He spent most of his professional career with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but also served as one of the highest ranking entomologists with the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps during World War II.

Mr. Cushing conducted research on a number of livestock insect problems, including the screwworm, cattle grubs, and reindeer parasites. He was Chief of the Division of Insects Affecting Man and Animals of the old Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine from 1939 to 1946, except for the period of service in the Army during World

War II. In 1946 he retired from his position with the Bureau and lived on his farm in Stockdale, Texas.

Mr. Cushing made the outstanding discovery in 1933 that the true screwworm had been confused with *Cochliomyia macellaria* (F), which is a relatively unimportant scavenger species. This discovery was made while doing graduate work at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine in England during 1933. Together with W. S. Patton, noted dipterist, he described the species as *Cochliomyia americana*, and pointed out it differed taxonomically from *C. macellaria*. It was later determined that the true screwworm had previously been described as *Cochliomyia hominivorax* by Coquerel, but the discovery of the existence of a complex of two species and the subsequent research showing that this complex consisted of a true parasite and a scavenger species changed the entire research approach to screwworm control.

As an entomologist with the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, Col. Cushing played an important role in planning and directing programs in the North African and European Theaters of operation for the control of body lice, the vector of epidemic typhus. He, together with his military associates, demonstrated the value of DDT for stopping and preventing typhus epidemics. For this outstanding work, he was awarded the United States of America Typhus Commission Medal by the U.S. Army.

Following World War II, the Entomological Society arranged to have a record of the role of entomologists during the war. In view of Mr. Cushing's important role and general knowledge of entomological activities in the armed services, he was elected to write *The History of Entomology During World War II*.

Those who knew Emory appreciated his general knowledge and practical understanding of insect problems, particularly in the medical and veterinary field. They also had great admiration for his dedication to public service. In 1952, he suffered a severe stroke and was handicapped physically for the rest of his life. Nevertheless, Emory maintained great interest in research for the betterment of mankind. His interest in later life centered on plants as a possible source of new medicinal drugs, particularly for the treatment of cancer. In spite of his physical handicaps, he collected plants from Texas ranges and supplied material to collaborators with the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Cushing obtained his formal training in entomology at the Texas A&M University, receiving his Bachelors degree in 1923 and his Masters in 1929.

His survivors include Deniza Cushing, who resides at Stockdale, Texas.

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