

STUART W. FROST

(1891 - 1980)

Subject: *Insect taxonomy*

Field: *Natural history*

Nationality: *American*

ENTOMOLOGIST
of the
MONTH



Frost examines 'Big Bertha', which was one of many experimental insect light traps he designed



Frost in Orange Co., NY, 1917. He is pictured with a bicycle on the far right. Photos: Penn State Frost Museum

As a child growing up in Tarrytown, New York, Stuart Frost would often collect insects while on family trips. Trips to the American Museum of Natural History taught him how to preserve and pin insects from a young age. By age 18 he was writing down what he saw while watching the wildlife around him.

Frost published his first scientific paper in 1916 about the biology of a small weevil which lives in dandelion flowers. This would be the first of 200 scientific papers and four books he would author. In 1925, he wrote his PhD on leaf-mining flies of North America.

Frost became a professor at Penn State in 1937. He taught courses in entomology and performed research on fruit tree pests. Frost continued to gather insects which he organized into the first insect reference collection for the Zoology/Entomology Department. After retiring from teaching in 1957, Frost spent his winters in Florida and summers in State College collecting insects. He added 40,000 specimens and 1,500 species to the department's collection in 13 years.

Named in his honor, Penn State's Frost Entomological Museum was founded in 1969 and today holds approximately one million specimens from around the world. The museum delivers on both research and educational missions through fostering curiosity about the natural world and by making its collections available to a diversity of audiences.

References:

- Penn State Frost Entomological Museum Website; URL: <https://ento.psu.edu/about/facilities/frost/about> [Accessed 24 Jan 2023]
- This factsheet was collaboratively produced by Andrew Deans and Natalie Boyle, Penn State Dept. of Entomology

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