

# EDITH MARION PATCH

(1876-1954)

*Subject: Aphids*

*Field: Aphidology*

*Nationality: American*

Entomologist  
of the  
Month

## Maine Woman Scientist Receives Unusual Honor

Dr. Edith Patch Of U. Of M. Is Elected  
President Of Entomological Society  
Of America



In 1930 Edith Marion Patch became the first female president of the Entomological Society of America. Patch was a world-renowned aphidologist, publishing a total of 80 scientific papers on aphid identification, biology, and ecology throughout her career. In addition to describing a number of new aphid species herself, she has also received the honor of having two genera, five species, and one sub-species named after her. Patch researched and advocated for integrated pest management strategies well before the coining of the phrase. She recognized the importance of beneficial insects in agroecological settings, and disapproved of the indiscriminate application of pesticides. In 1938 Patch published "The Food Plant Catalogue of Aphids", which documented the host plants associated with various aphid species, becoming an invaluable resource for aphid control in both agricultural and horticultural settings. In addition to her numerous contributions to the academic community, Patch was also dedicated to public outreach and communication. She regularly published articles for the general public in horticultural and naturalist magazines, and authored numerous natural history books and magazine articles for children.

### References:

- Bird, M. (2006). Dame Bug and her students: The science and environmental teaching of Edith Marion Patch.
- Clark, A. (2015). Remembering Edith Patch, the First Female President of the Entomological Society of America. Entomology Today Website
- This factsheet was produced by Staci Cibotti, Penn State Center for Pollinator Research Graduate Student

November 2021