

## Arnold J. Ullstrup, 1907–1985

John F. Tuite and Ralph J. Green, Jr.



Arnold J. Ullstrup, Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology, Purdue University, died unexpectedly at his home in West Lafayette, IN, on June 1, 1985. He was born in Milwaukee, WI, on January 24, 1907, and received the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Wisconsin. After two years with the Rockefeller Foundation at Princeton, NJ, he spent two years at Clemson University, Clemson, SC, before accepting an appointment, in 1938, as a USDA corn pathologist stationed at Purdue

University. He held that appointment until 1967, then joined the faculty of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Purdue University, as Professor of Plant Pathology. He retired from the University in June, 1972, but continued an active research career with a private crops research organization until shortly before his death.

Dr. Ullstrup had a long and distinguished career in plant pathology. He published more than 60 research papers concerned primarily with the nature, causes, and control of foliar and stalk diseases of corn. Early in his career he described *Helminthosporium carbonum* as a new species causing a leaf disease of corn and later demonstrated that *Sclerophthora macrospora* was the causal agent of crazy top disease of corn in the United States. He cooperated with other scientists in describing several new diseases including eyespot and ergot of corn. He developed a number of inbred lines of corn resistant to *H. turcicum*, demonstrating the relative importance of monogenic and polygenic resistance, and did pioneering research on the pathogen, *H. maydis*. His studies on the diseases caused on corn by various species of the genus *Helminthosporium* have contributed much to our understanding of the foliar diseases of corn. His broad knowledge of the field of

corn diseases was apparent in his contributions to numerous books and other publications on this crop. Respect for this knowledge was manifested by corn breeders, seedsmen, and growers who repeatedly sought his advice and counsel.

Dr. Ullstrup traveled extensively in foreign countries, serving as a technical consultant for the USDA and the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations. In 1967, he participated in an international symposium sponsored by the Indian Phytopathological Society, and in 1971 he helped organize the Second International Symposium on Plant Pathology held at New Delhi, India. On this trip he participated in the Inter-Asian Crop Improvement Conference in the Philippines. He also served as a consultant for the FAO in Thailand in 1972.

In addition to his outstanding research, Dr. Ullstrup taught both undergraduate and graduate courses in plant pathology where his clear, concise lectures were always enlivened with his personal experiences. He also guided the research of a number of graduate students from this country and abroad. He served the American Phytopathological Society as an Associate Editor of *Phytopathology* and was elected Fellow of the APS in 1973.

Army, as he was known to his colleagues and friends, was truly a scholar and an educated man. He was widely read, had a brilliant and inquiring mind and a conversation with him was always stimulating. He had a knack for coining a phrase to characterize an incident or personality; his aphorisms were usually apt but not always gentle. He had a true concern for his fellow man and was anxious to share his knowledge and experience wherever it was sought from throughout the world.

An avid gardener, he took great pride in nurturing the plants of his garden and was an almost encyclopedic source of knowledge on the subject. A modest and unassuming man, yet forthright and often uncompromising, he was deeply respected by those who knew and worked with him throughout his long and productive career.

Dr. Ullstrup is survived by his wife Sara, a daughter Karen, and a son Peter.