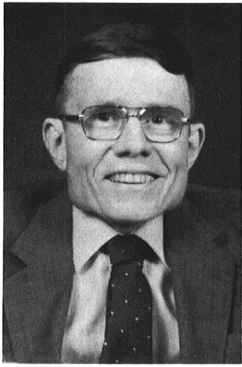


Everett Stanley Luttrell, 1916-1988

R. T. Hanlin and W. N. Garrett



Dr. E. S. Luttrell, professor emeritus of plant pathology at the University of Georgia, Athens, died July 5, 1988, following a long struggle with cancer. Thus ended a distinguished career as researcher, teacher, administrator, counselor, editor, colleague, and friend to the many individuals with whom he came in contact.

Everett Stanley Luttrell ("Lutt" to his friends) was born January 10, 1916 in Richmond, Virginia. After attending public schools there, he entered the

University of Richmond, from which he graduated with a B.S. degree in biology in 1937. He then moved to Duke University, where he received M.A. (1939) and Ph.D. (1940) degrees in botany (mycology) under the direction of Dr. Frederick A. Wolf. His doctoral dissertation, *The Morphology and Development of Some Fungi Parasitic on Trees within the Duke Forest*, marked the beginning of a lifelong interest in ascomycete morphology, on which he became a world authority.

The early 1940s were still depression years, so for two years following graduation, Lutt held temporary jobs with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service while he took additional courses at the University of Virginia. Then, in 1942, he was appointed associate botanist at the Georgia Experiment Station near Griffin. As a member of a plant pathology department in an agricultural state, he was expected to investigate problems of concern to Georgia farmers. This led to studies of charcoal rot of beans, black rot of muscadines, and other diseases of local crops, although he also continued his studies on ascomycete morphology.

In 1947 Lutt accepted a position as assistant professor of botany at the University of Missouri, Columbia, where he taught bacteriology. Two years later, however, he returned to the Georgia Experiment Station as associate plant pathologist. In 1955 he was promoted to professor and head of the Department of Plant Pathology.

As the result of his studies on ascomycete morphology, Lutt published a book in 1951 entitled *Taxonomy of the Pyrenomycetes*, in which he proposed a new system of classification of these important fungi based on the developmental pattern and internal structure of the ascocarp. This work not only radically altered the classification of the perithecioid ascomycetes, but also established him as a leading authority on ascomycete morphology. An important aspect of Lutt's classification scheme was the establishment of the correlation between the method of ascospore discharge and the basic ontogenetic pattern of the ascocarp. This concept led to the establishment in 1955 of the subclass *Loculoascomycetidae* for those ascomycetes possessing bitunicate asci in loculate ascocarps. Equally important, perhaps, is the great amount of research stimulated by his ideas and the numerous publications on ascomycete morphology that resulted from these studies.

During this period, Lutt began a series of studies on the graminicolous members of the *Helminthosporium* complex, many species of which are important plant pathogens. He conducted detailed studies on conidiogenesis and conidium morphology and was able to demonstrate that small, subtle differences in conidium ontogeny, morphology, and method of germination represented fundamental differences in their biology that were correlated with the ascigerous state. This permitted him to write keys to separate

genera in this complex. It was through such studies that he merged the basic and applied aspects of mycology and plant pathology.

In 1966 Lutt moved to the University of Georgia at Athens to become head of the Department of Plant Pathology and Plant Genetics as well as chairman of the statewide Division of Plant Pathology. In this capacity he presided over the expansion of the department as the university expanded its faculties and facilities in the biological sciences. In 1970 he resigned his administrative post to devote himself full time to research and teaching, and in 1978 he was honored by the university through his appointment as D. W. Brooks Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology, a position held until his retirement in 1986.

As he resumed full-time research, he turned his attention to what he termed "replacement diseases," in which fungal tissues replace normal host tissues. He first studied ergot of wheat, in which he demonstrated how the fungus invades and parasitizes the host, subsequently replacing the ovule with a sclerotium. He then looked at similar diseases among the smut fungi and was actively engaged in this work until his death.

Lutt was a true scholar, totally dedicated to his work. Although he fulfilled his university obligations by serving on numerous committees and in other ways, it was in research that he reveled. He constantly sought to broaden his intellectual horizons, and he read widely in ecology and epidemiology, as well as in botany, mycology, and plant pathology. As biochemistry and molecular biology assumed greater importance, he added these areas to his repertoire. He had an exceptional talent for extracting the important principles from publications in diverse disciplines and synthesizing them into fundamental, unified, comprehensible concepts. His graduate course "Theory and Principles of Plant Pathology" not only introduced students to the epidemiology of plant pathogens, but also to comparable examples drawn from human and veterinary medicine for each of the major groups of pathogens (fungi, bacteria, viruses, and nematodes). It was a rare student who was prepared to think in such broad terms. Despite his devotion to research, Lutt always found time to assist colleagues with stimulating discussions and to provide guidance to younger staff and students. Because of his mastery of English, he was frequently called upon to review manuscripts, which he did with care and thoughtfulness. In these and other ways he influenced all around him.

Professionally, Lutt was a member of the American Phytopathological Society (APS), Botanical Society of America, British Mycological Society, and the Mycological Society of America (MSA). He served as president of Southern Division-APS (1964) and was elected a Fellow of APS in 1972. In MSA he served as counselor (1967-69), vice president (1969-70), president-elect (1971-72), and president (1972-73). In 1981 he was selected Annual Lecturer of MSA, and in 1983 he received the society's Distinguished Mycologist Award.

Most of his long career was shared with his wife, Margaret Muse Luttrell, whom he married in 1944 and who survives him. They had three children, all of whom survive him. Although he was devoted to his family, they soon learned to share him with his beloved fungi. Once the children were grown, Margaret often accompanied Lutt to annual meetings, where they enjoyed renewing many longstanding friendships with other colleagues.

Lutt will be remembered for many things, but most of all for his modest and unassuming manner and the quality of his friendship. Contributions to a living memorial can be made to the University of Georgia Foundation, Attention: The E. S. Luttrell Lecture Series, University of Georgia, Athens 30602.