



AUSTIN BEATTY WILLIAMS
RECIPIENT OF AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH

In a ceremony at the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., The Crustacean Society's Excellence in Research Award was presented to Dr. Austin B. Williams on the occasion of his 78th birthday, 17 October 1997. A distinguished research scientist and staff member of the Systematics Laboratory, National Marine Fisheries Service, based in the National Museum of Natural History, Smith-

sonian Institution, Dr. Williams has had a distinguished career spanning five decades. Since 1952 he has published more than 115 papers, and still counting. Born in Plattsburg, Missouri, in 1919, he was educated at McPherson College (A.B. 1943), and the University of Kansas (Ph.D. 1951), where he studied Ozark crayfishes. From 1951 to 1955 he was with the University of North Carolina Institute of Fisheries Research, studying the life

history and ecology of penaeid shrimps. He then worked at the University of Illinois from 1956 to 1963, when he returned to the North Carolina Institute of Fisheries Research to continue his studies on marine and estuarine decapods until 1971.

Dr. Williams is the acknowledged expert on and leader in studies of the systematics of eastern American decapod crustaceans. He is probably best known for his widely used monograph "Shrimps, lobsters, and crabs of the Atlantic coast of the eastern United States" published by the Smithsonian in 1984. His earlier study on the decapods of the Carolinas published in 1965, a precursor to his 1984 monograph, was selected as a Science Citation Classic in 1983, a rare honor for a systematist. His book, coauthored with I. Dore, entitled "Lobsters of the world—an illustrated guide," published in 1988, has also become an indispensable reference for anyone interested in this group of economically significant decapods.

The primary focus of Dr. Williams' research has been the taxonomy, systematics, biogeography, and evolution of various decapod groups, both fossil and Recent. However, occasionally he has also worked on other groups, such as cirripeds, mysids, amphipods, and euphausiids, or even bird ecology. His publications provide us with a standard of excellence, and are well known for attention to detail, accuracy, and usefulness in the identification of specimens. No major group of decapods has escaped Dr. Williams' attention, having published important works on crayfishes, penaeoids, carideans, thalassinideans, lobsters, anomurans, and brachyurans. His land-

mark studies on swimming crabs of the genus *Callinectes*, mud shrimps of the family Upogebiidae, commercial lobsters, xanthid crabs, and deep-sea hydrothermal vent decapods, among others, have earned him a place in the history of zoology. Although his work has concentrated on aspects of systematics and evolution, he has also published important studies on the biology of commercial penaeid shrimps, ecology of meroplankton, larval genetics, and crustacean fisheries and mariculture.

Dr. Williams' impact on carcinology is not limited to that derived from his publications. Throughout his exemplary career, he has been an active member of many professional societies. The Crustacean Society, for which he was Associate Editor from 1986–1991, is only one among them. He was cofounder and president of the Estuarine Research Federation (1983–1985), and has also served as president of the Atlantic Estuarine Research Society (1960–1961), the Biological Society of Washington (1986–1988), and the American Association for Zoological Nomenclature (1991–1992). His editorial activities with various journals and symposia proceedings have helped produce many significant contributions; and his involvement with doctoral and master-level students at various academic institutions has produced a good number of outstanding carcinologists.

It is hoped that Dr. Williams will continue to provide us with many more years of inspiration.—Rafael Lemaitre, Department of Invertebrate Zoology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560, U.S.A.