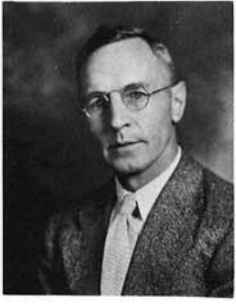


Harry Warren Anderson, 1885-1971

Halbert H. Thornberry



Harry Warren Anderson died 11 August 1971 at the Belvedere Convalescent Home, Chester, Pennsylvania. Born at Ladoga, Indiana, 14 October 1885, his boyhood days were at his family home and small farm where he helped grow vegetables and other plants especially strawberries, for sale. This childhood experience may have stimulated his interest in the

study of plants.

His formal education, begun in the Ladoga elementary and high schools, continued at Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana, where he earned the B.A. degree in 1907 and the M.A. degree in 1910. At Wabash Botany Professor M. B. Thomas encouraged him to follow a career in plant pathology. His older brother, Paul J. Anderson, likewise graduated from Wabash and earned a distinguished career in plant pathology. His Ph.D. degree was awarded in 1917 by the University of Illinois. He also did graduate study in 1907-1908 at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, and in 1910-1911 at Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri.

His professional employment began in 1907 as instructor in Biology at Vanderbilt University, and extended to 1954 when he was made Professor Emeritus of Plant Pathology, Department of Horticulture, University of Illinois. From 1908 to 1910 he was instructor in Botany at Wabash College; and 1911-1912, assistant pathologist in Floriculture, Department of Horticulture, in the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station; he resigned in April 1912 to go to Wabash College as Professor of Botany. He served there until 1917, then returned to the University of Illinois as Associate in Pomology, Department of Horticulture. He was promoted in 1918 to Assistant Professor of Pomology; in 1925 to Associate Professor of Pomological Pathology; and in 1931 to Professor of Pomological Pathology, a title which changed to Professor of Plant Pathology in 1945. His professorships from 1918 to 1947 simultaneously included the rank of Chief in the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. He served as Head of the Division of Plant Pathology, Department of Horticulture, from 1945 to 1953 when he relinquished his administrative duties to devote time to the writing of his book.

His membership in scientific societies included The American Phytopathological Society (elected Vice President in 1937, President in 1938, and Fellow in 1965), The American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the The Illinois State Horticultural Society. He was elected to the following honorary societies: Sigma Xi, Phi Gamma Delta, and Gamma Sigma Delta. At Illinois he was active in important college committees such as the Faculty Program, Student Honors, Graduate Study, and Policy and Development.

His teaching included six formal plant pathology courses, three undergraduate and three graduate. Advanced degrees relative to plant pathology under his

competent guidance and influence directly and through his staff of pathologists totaled 91 certificates (M.S. or M.A. degrees, 49; and 42 Ph.D. degrees); eleven of these M.S. degrees and 14 Ph.D. degrees were granted in the Plant Pathology Advanced Degree program prior to the formation of the Department of Plant Pathology in 1955. The training of these graduates was materially enriched by his broad experiences accumulated from "grass-root" research and studies.

Dr. Anderson's research began soon after the establishment of plant pathology in the USA and the organization of The American Phytopathological Society in 1908. He published 203 scientific papers from this time to his retirement. His pioneering study on the chestnut-tree blight disease contributed much to the knowledge of the plant disease that destroyed the lumber and tanning industries based upon the chestnut tree. He discovered the cause of strawberry leaf blight and renamed the pathogen, *Dendrophoma obscurans* (Ell. & Ev.) H. W. Anderson. His many findings on fungal fruit and vegetable pathogens and his chemical control program provided highly valuable aid and guidance to the fruit and vegetable industry. His extensive studies on peach bacterial spot disease earned high esteem at one of the national meetings. He discovered *Xanthomonas pruni* bacteriophage, one of the first isolations of a virus from a bacterial plant pathogen.

His investigations in antibiotics led to the development of an outstanding research laboratory and a program on plant disease control. He was the first to demonstrate the control of a plant disease by antibiotics and that an antibiotic, streptomycin, could be absorbed by plant roots and then translocated. On the basis of these achievements, the Argentine government, through the Ministry of Health, invited him to the first International Congress on Antibiotics and Chemotherapy in Buenos Aires in 1952. While in that city he and a local physician, Antonio Vilches, M.D., National University of Buenos Aires, "eye-witnessed" the status of the "Duga Instituti" in connection with Krebiozen production. Contents of their report were published in official University of Illinois reports for the legal investigation on Krebiozen and also in the book "Krebiozen, the Great Cancer Mystery" by George D. Stoddard.

For his outstanding contribution to the fruit and vegetable industry, he was elected in 1965 to the "Illinois Horticulture Hall of Fame," the second awardee. His book "Diseases of Fruit Crops," a treatise based upon 37 years of research, is accepted and used by pathologists throughout the world.

As Head of the Division of Plant Pathology in the Department of Horticulture, he brought in a staff that developed a strong teaching and research program in five areas: Fruit Pathology, Vegetable Pathology, Antibiotics, Nematology, and Virology. This staff and their programs provided the basic structure for the present Department of Plant Pathology.

The sincere and intense regard Dr. Anderson felt for his associates overshadowed, to a considerable degree, his many noteworthy achievements in plant pathology.