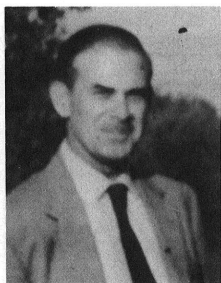


Edgar Cecil Tullis, 1901-1976

C. Roy Adair



Edgar Cecil Tullis, formerly rice pathologist in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, died November 12, 1976, at Cockeysville, Maryland. He had been in ill health for about a year.

Dr. Tullis was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, August 23, 1901. He received the A.B. degree at the University of Nebraska in 1924, the M.A.

from the University of Nebraska in 1925, and the Ph.D. degree from Michigan State University in 1929.

In June 1926, Edgar C. Tullis married Mary Waters. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in June 1976. They had one son, John E. Tullis. Dr. Tullis is survived by his widow, who lives in Cockeysville, Maryland; by his son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren living in Timonium, Maryland; and two nephews in California.

Dr. Tullis was Assistant Professor in the Plant Pathology Department of the University of Arkansas, from 1928 to 1930. He was in charge of rice disease investigations in the U. S. Department of Agriculture from 1930 to 1951. He lived in Fayetteville, Arkansas, from 1928 to 1938 and then transferred to Beaumont, Texas, where he lived until 1951. Research that he conducted during the period up to 1951 contributed valuable information on the life histories, on the taxonomy of rice pathogens, and on the epidemiology and control of the diseases they caused. During the last several years he was at Beaumont, he conducted pioneer research on the chemical control of rice field weeds. His leadership in this field was recognized by his election to the chairmanship of the Southern Weed Conference in 1950.

In 1951 Dr. Tullis transferred to the position of leader of the rice disease studies in the U. S. Army Research and Development Laboratories, Fort Detrick, Frederick,

Maryland. In 1956 he transferred to the position of Operations Research Analyst where he served until he retired from Federal service in 1960. His primary interests while at Fort Detrick were the study of host parasite relations and the epidemiology of rice diseases.

The work he did throughout his life contributed much valuable basic information on the cause and control of rice diseases.

After retiring from Federal service, Dr. Tullis was instructor at St. Charles Academy for one semester during the illness of the Chemistry Professor. He then taught Biology for 5 years at the University of Baltimore. In 1965, he moved to Florence, Alabama, where he accepted a position as Professor of Biology at the University of North Alabama. He served in this institution until he retired in 1972. He moved to Cockeysville, Maryland, in 1975.

Dr. Tullis was an active member of the American Phytopathological Society throughout his professional career. He was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, joining in 1925 and being elected a Fellow in 1932. He also had an active role in weed research conferences that later developed into the American Weed Society. In his later years, Dr. Tullis was a member and an active participant in meetings and judging the flower shows at the American Camellia Society. He was also a member of Sigma Xi, Sem Bot, Scabbard and Blade, a life member of Phi Kappa Phi, and he was listed in the American Men and Women of Science.

Throughout his life, Dr. Tullis had a keen interest in flowers and ornamental plants. His hobby was the culture, breeding, and display of garden plants, especially hemerocallis and camellia. As an amateur breeder of day lilies he developed many beautiful varieties. As a grower of camellias and a judge of camellia shows, he was a highly respected member of that group of plant fanciers. His associates at the University of North Alabama expressed their admiration for him by establishing a scholarship fund in his memory.