





and after four years he returned to England to take up the chair of social biology at the London School of Economics. Among the many noteworthy events of his period in Cape Town was the time when he took a 'coloured' woman to a ball; only someone who has lived in South Africa can appreciate the horror with which that action would have been received in the late 1920s. Hogben believed in shock tactics, and these were not without their effect on our teenage student from a prim—indeed puritanical—home environment.

In the botany department Ken came under a very different kind of man, a shy and poorly articulate Englishman who had occupied the chair of botany at the University of Sydney a few years previously, R. S. Adamson. While Hogben had turned

refractory problem and he received minimal guidance from his nominal supervisors, who at that time were desperately trying to find jobs for their graduates at the height of the Depression. In spite of the fact that his doctoral project yielded four published papers (2D5)\*, Ken was perhaps lucky to be awarded the degree.

His taxonomic studies at the British Museum were published in two papers on African genera of grasshoppers (6, 7). However, they were not Ken's first which had been published in 1930 (1), while he was still an undergraduate, in the South African Journal of Science (it was a lead-up to the MSc thesis that gained him the Purcell Prize).

During one of his sessions at the British Museum in 1935 Ken was visited by A. L. Tonnoir, a Belgian engineer and amateur entomologist who had been appointed to the then CSIR Division of Economic Entomology in Australia by R. J. Tillyard, its first Chief. Tonnoir was looking for a young man to fill a recently advertised vacancy for an Assistant Research Officer to carry out investigations on the grasshopper (really locust) problem in Australia. Ken seemed to have just the kind of qualifications and interest required and he was encouraged to apply. In due course he was offered the job and arrived in Perth in May 1936.

Just before Tonnoir's intervention Ken had suffered a rejection without which his life would have taken a very different turn. A vacancy had occurred for an Orthopterist in the British Museum. Ken had several papers on Orthoptera in press, including

That problem was essentially the question of where and how locust plagues originate. Its solution could be expected to lead to a more rational and radical strategy for locust control. The way to a solution had been indicated during the 1920s by B. P. Uvarov on the basis of evidence being accumulated on European and African

only in 1959 in a joint paper (25) with I. F. B. Common who, with K. R. Norris, had participated in the work.

Ken was awarded a DSc degree by the University of London in 1946 and another by the University of Cape Town in 1962.

After the war Ken turned to the writing up of his considerable data on the taxonomy of Chortoicetes and its nearer relatives in the genus Austroicetes two of which are also minor pests. This work, which is still the basic reference in its field, was published as a small book (18) in 1954. However, as a preliminary, Ken undertook a close examination of aspects of Uvarov's "Phase Theory" of locust outbreaks, with which he was dissatisfied and which had to be clarified for his proposed book. In 1950 he published a "Critique" of the theory. This paper (14) was subsequently widely misquoted by close adherents of the theory, who in general failed to recognize that its main aim was logical clarification rather than dissent from well established biological facts.

At about this time Ken was making strenuous effort

them quite remote at the time. They hopper subfamily Morabinae, of which included Cooper's Creek (which he identified more than one hundred undescribed species as a locust outbreak area), the Nullarbor, and the Simpson's Desert and Alligator Rivers areas. His major objective was to travel selected routes and stop every 10 miles exactly, and to collect for half an hour. In this way he achieved a thorough survey of many previously unsampled areas of the country. Ken's large collection of Australian grasshoppers required intensive work which he felt unable to provide. He therefore asked James A. G. Rehn, curator of insects at the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences, to undertake taxonomic revisions of the Australian fauna. Three volumes were published between 1952 and 1957, by which time Rehn was clearly unable to continue the work. Ken was dissatisfied with the pace of the project. Also Rehn had no practical hand knowledge of Australia and its unique ecology. Rather than joining in the completion of the project, Ken decided to end it in 1963. Later, beginning in 1980, Ken re-examined most of the groups (63, 64, 67, 70-73).

In 1959 a combination of circumstances led to a severing of the connection with Chortoicetes and with ecology generally, and exclusive concentration on taxonomy and its organization within the CSIRO Division of Entomology. The polarization of theoretical ecology in Australia between the schools of A. J. Nicholson, then Chief of the Division of Entomology, and H. G. Andrewartha and L. C. Birch of the Universities of Adelaide and Sydney, was making it very difficult for a non-joiner in the Division to remain unaligned. Moreover, an inheritor of the field of locust ecology was waiting in the wings in the person of D. P. Clark, who already had a series of studies on the minor pest grasshopper *Phaulacridium vittatum* to his credit. The joint projects with M. J. D. White had extended to the remarkable endemic grass-

Ken produced a series of 'Museum Circu' were towards the far left and for a time he lars' dealing with issues like storage facilities, loans policy, and a range of management procedures, all subsequently including pets and gardening. When the issued in book form. In 1962 the insect hydatid problem was prevalent in the Canberra area, Ken was serious when he suggested that dogs and cats should not be monwealth Government of specially gazetted permitted in the Australian Capital Territory. He had his own dog put down as an example. His strong socialist leanings led the responsibility of the Commonwealth to him to conclude that vegetables and fruits preserve for future study' (Upton, 1997).

Ken was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 1959. He served on the Sectional Committee for Biological Sciences and from 1975 to 1978 was a member of the Academy Council. He was not by nature a committee man, but could not avoid involvement in additional ad hoc or continuing committees of both CSIRO and the Academy. For a number of years he was a member of the Academy's Fauna Committee, and he did a stint on the Advisory Committee for the Australian Journal of Zoology (1964-1970). He served on the Board of Pacific Insects. He was foundation President of the Ecological Society of Australia and a foundation member of the Australian Entomological Society. He was appointed to the Interim Council of the Biological Resources Study set up in 1973, on which he served for the three years of its existence. Ken was also a member of both the Linnean Society of New South Wales and the Royal Entomological Society of London.

For nine years in the 'fifties and 'sixties he was an active member of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature based in London. He played a leading role in the discussions prior to the revision of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature and for a period was a member of the Editorial Committee formed to produce a further revision in the 'seventies.

Ken's private life never intruded into his working environment. His political views

In August 1976, on his 65th birthday, he removed plum and apple trees from his garden and did not permit vegetables there. He did approve a 1 square metre plot where his wife could grow medicinal herbs that were not available over-the-counter.

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