

Wedge Entomological Research Foundation

Ronald W. Hodges,¹ David L. Wagner,² and Oliver Dominick³

85253 Ridgeway Drive, Eugene, Oregon 97405-9535 rwhodges@rhodges.net¹

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, 75 N. Eagleville Rd., Rm. 312, U-43, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Ct. 06268-1712 david.wagner@uconn.edu²

P. O. Box 219, Phippsburg, ME 04562 osdom@pipeline.com³

The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation (WERF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to producing taxonomic monographs on the moth fauna of the Nearctic Region. The Foundation's principle focus is to publish biosystematic treatments on the estimated sixteen thousand plus species of moths found in North America in a series of monographs - "The Moths of North America" (MONA). Each MONA fascicle treats a subset of the Nearctic fauna, i.e., entire families, subfamilies, tribes, or large genera. Volumes contain identification keys, diagnostic descriptions, information on the immature stages and their hosts, geographic and temporal data, illustrations of diagnostic characters, colored illustrations of the adults, and a revised synonymic list of included taxa. Occasionally, other taxonomic treatments are published by the Foundation, e.g., Jim Tuttle's *The Hawk Moths of North America: A Natural History Study of the Sphingidae of the United States and Canada.*"

A brief history of the WERF and the Wedge Plantation in South Carolina describing the early days of the Foundation appears as front matter of its first fascicle, that on the Sphingidae

published in 1971 (a digital version can be accessed on the Foundation website: <http://www.wedgefoundation.org/>). In addition to Richard and Tatiana Dominick, proprietors of the Wedge and quintessential catalysts for early WERF efforts, key early figures in the Foundation's development included Eric Classey, Charles Edwards, Douglas C. Ferguson, John G. Franclemont, Basil Harley, Ronald W. Hodges, and Eugene G. Munroe.

The WERF website has a complete list of publications, scans of representative plates, and an order form. Free access to distributional and other label data is also being made available on-line, upon publication of a given fascicle. A brief synopsis for all recently completed volumes, with information on the taxonomic coverage, is provided in the "News" link. (Our thanks to Todd Gilligan for designing and maintaining the website.)

WERF is in the process of digitizing its previously published fascicles. A near-term goal will be to make available via the web low-resolution, fully searchable pdfs of older volumes. As in the past, high-quality print copies will be available for purchase. The next fascicle scheduled for publication is Powell and Brown's revision of the Sparganothini (Tortricidae). Jim Miller is heading

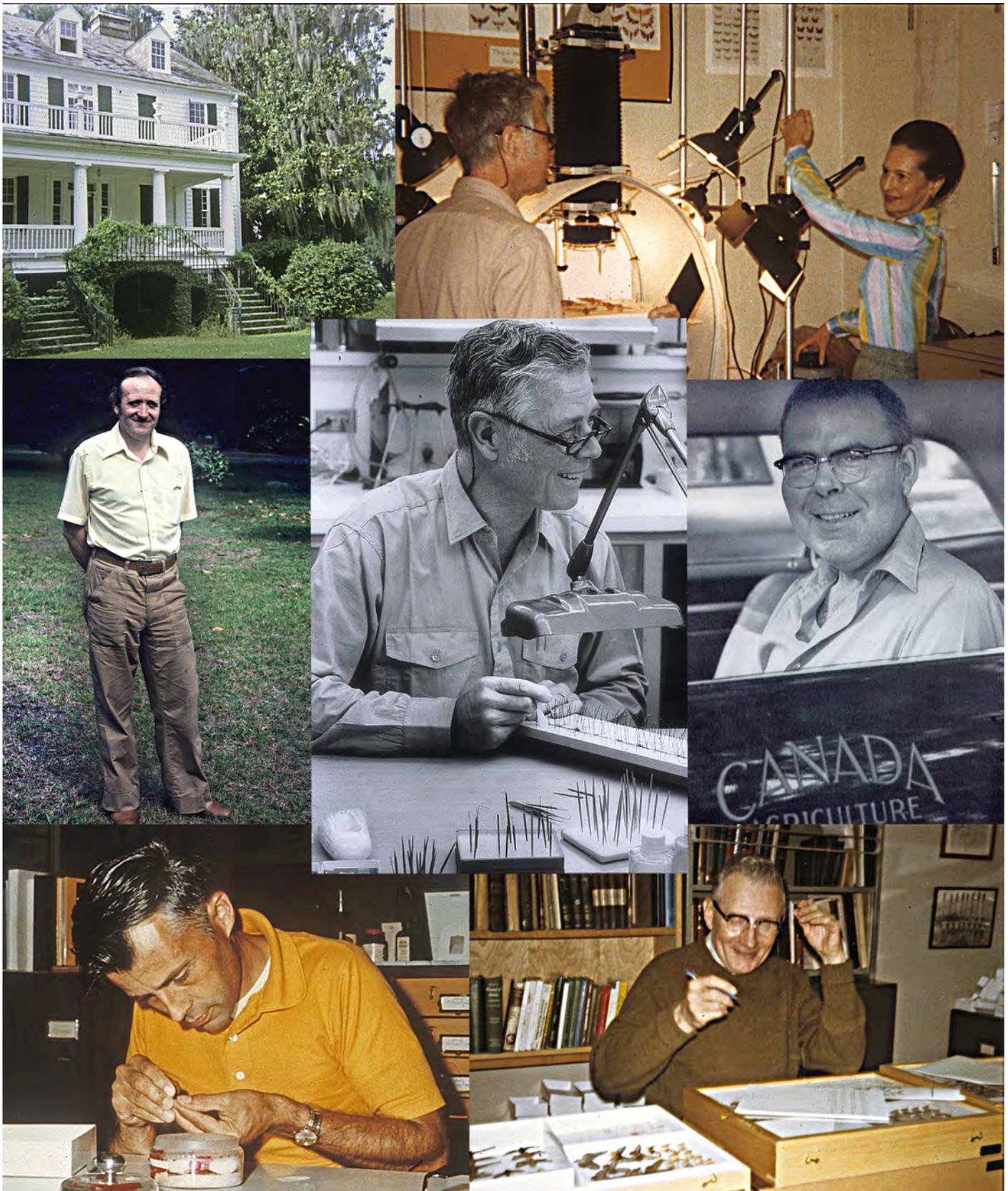
efforts to complete John Franclemont's unfinished fascicle on the Notodontidae.

WERF's grants-in-aid program provides up to \$5,000/yr to help authors complete systematic work leading directly to the completion of MONA fascicles. Activities eligible for funding include museum travel, databasing, illustration, equipment, and author stipends.

Current Board Members (and officers) include Ronald W. Hodges (President and Managing Director), J. Donald Lafontaine (Vice-President), Paul A. Opler (Treasurer), Kelly M. Richers (Assistant Managing Director and Assistant Treasurer), Eric W. Metzler (Secretary), Oliver S. Dominick (Assistant Secretary), John W. Brown, Lawrence F. Gall, Jacqueline Y. Miller, and David L. Wagner.

The Wedge Entomological Research Foundation is working to identify persons, estates, or foundations that will help endow a position in Lepidoptera biosystematics at the United States National Museum (Smithsonian Institution)—see article on p. 130 on charitable giving and the text box detailing a current effort to fund a geometrid worker to help fill the void resulting from Douglas Ferguson's untimely passing.





Clockwise from upper left: Wedge Plantation, front porch. Dick and Tania Dominick taking images for Sphingidae fascicle (1969). Eugene Munroe about to depart Wedge for Ottawa (circa 1970). Jack Franclemont at work on his Mimallonoidea and Bombycoidea fascicle. Ron Hodges pinning series of recently collected micros. Doug Ferguson at rear of Wedge. Dick Dominick at work in the lab. All images from 1971 unless otherwise noted.