

THEILER, GERTRUD (September 11, 1897, Pretoria, South Africa – 2 May, 1986, Pretoria, South Africa). *Zoologist; Parasitologist*. Daughter of Sir Arnold Theiler and Lady Emma (née Jegge) Theiler. Unmarried.

EDUCATION : University of Cape Town (then South African College, Cape Town), 1918: BSc; University of Neuchatel, 1922: DSc.

CAREER : 1922 – 1924, conducted helminthological research at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; 1924 – 1926, taught biology at Jeppe High School for Girls, Johannesburg; 1926 – 1935, senior lecturer in zoology and physiology at Huguenot University College, Wellington; 1935 – 1939, professor in the same department; 1940 – 1967, research worker in entomology (responsible for National Tick Survey) at the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort); 1968 – 1982, guest worker in helminthology at the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort

CONTRIBUTIONS : Taxonomical studies on numerous African tick species; largely responsible for building up the tick collection – a national asset – of the Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort into the second largest collection internationally; laid foundation for South African knowledge of the zoogeography of ticks, especially those occurring in southern Africa.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS : Awarded the following: 1960, Senior Captain Scott Medal of South African Biological Society; 1975, Elsdon-Dew Medal of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa.

WRITINGS : Author or co-author of more than 35 scientific publications – no published reference available; Theiler G. A contribution to the knowledge of African Ixodidae. The genus *Rhipicentor*, *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* (1961), LXVI (3-4), 297-305; Zoological survey of the Union of South Africa. Tick survey: Part II – Distribution of *Boophilus (Palpoboophilus) decoloratus*, the blue tick. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science* (1949), 22, 255-268; *The Ixodoidea Parasites of Vertebrates in Africa South of the Sahara (Ethiopian Region)*. Report to the Director of Veterinary Services, Onderstepoort (1962).

REFERENCES/OBITUARIES: Obituary, *Journal of the South African Veterinary Association* (1987), Vol. 58, pp. 99-100.

RD BIGALKE & H HEYNE