

DU TOIT, RENÉ MICHEL (March 2, 1904, Cape Town, South Africa – May 17, 1988, Cape Town, South Africa). *Veterinarian; Entomologist; Researcher*. Son of Mechiel Siebert Wiid du Toit and Kate du Toit (née Ferguson). Married Vivian Gertrude Mulder, 1931.

EDUCATION: University of Pretoria, 1927: BVSc; University of Pretoria, 1953: DVSc.

CAREER: 1928, research officer, Pietermaritzburg, 1929 – 1930, officer in charge of scab eradication; 1931, researcher at Armoedsvlakte Research Station; 1932 – 1959, researcher in Entomology Section, Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort; 1959 – 1969 Sub-Director of Veterinary Research Institute, Onderstepoort; 1958 – 1960, part-time Professor of Parasitology at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1961 – 1969, Full-time Professor of Parasitology at Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1960 – 1963, Dean of Onderstepoort Faculty of Veterinary Science; 1945 and 1967, President of South African Biological Society; 1949, President of South African Entomological Society.

CONTRIBUTIONS: Established that *Culicoides* spp serve as vectors of African horse sickness and bluetongue and that cattle may serve as reservoirs of bluetongue virus; responsible for campaign (with co-workers) that led to eradication of tsetse fly *Glossina pallidipes* from Zululand over an area of more than 18000 square km; investigated value of synthetic organic insecticides for control of various external parasites of livestock, for example blowflies, sheep scab mites, sheep nasal worm and ticks.

HOMAGES AND DISTINCTIONS: 1936-1937, Commonwealth Fund Fellow; 1988, Witwatersrand Agricultural Society Hall of Fame Award.

WRITINGS: Author or co-author of 61 scientific publications – no reference available; representative publications are the following: The transmission of bluetongue and horsesickness by *Culicoides*. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Science and Animal Industry* (1944), 7 – 16; Trypanosomiasis in Zululand and the control of tsetse flies by chemical means. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* (1954), 317 – 388; The protection of sheep against blowfly strike. *Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research* (1953), 65 – 81.

REFERENCES / OBITUARIES: E.M. Nevill, 1988. In memoriam: Prof René du Toit. *VetNews*, June 1988, p14.

E.M. NEVILL