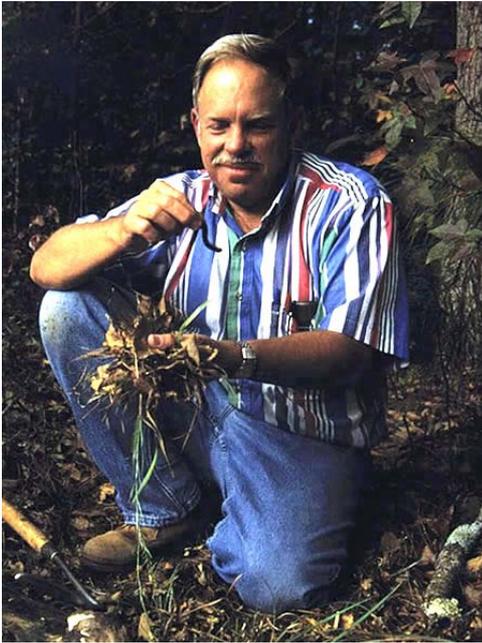


ROWLAND M. SHELLEY**1942–2018**

Dr. Rowland M. Shelley, former Curator of Invertebrates at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and internationally renowned authority on millipedes (Class Diplopoda) died November 11, 2018, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The cause of his death was pneumonia, following surgery for a knee replacement. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Lourdes O. Shelley, son Stephen, stepson Demian Hardister, three grandchildren and a sister.

Dr. Shelley was born in Raleigh, North Carolina, on September 9, 1942, and was a graduate of Broughton High School (1960), The University of North Carolina (BS, 1964) and North Carolina State University (PhD, 1970). He was employed by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for 44 years, until his retirement in 2015. Even after retiring, he continued to work from a home laboratory and to publish significant scientific papers. He was Adjunct Professor in the Department

of Entomology and Plant Pathology at the University of Tennessee, the Virginia Museum of Natural History and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Zoology at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Shelley published more than 300 papers (some forthcoming posthumously) on the systematics and biogeography of millipedes, centipedes, scorpions, leeches, mussels and several other taxa.

His research was supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, among others. Among his important achievements were a monograph on the scolopendromorph centipedes of North America, a revision and biogeographical treatise on the xystodesmid millipede genus *Sigmoria* and a world-wide survey (with colleague Sergei Golovatch) of the distribution of millipede orders. A few months prior to his death, he published a revised classification of the important millipede family Xystodesmidae that included numerous innovations. He was a diligent and dedicated field worker and travelled over much of the North American continent in search of materials for his research, as well as visiting virtually every museum in the United States and Canada with a significant millipede collection; in many cases he reorganized the collections he found. He was the author of one millipede family (Hoffmanobolidae Shelley, 2001) two subfamilies, 11 tribes and subtribes, 38 genera and 210 species. The millipede genus *Shelleyomorpha* Golovatch, 1997 was named for him, as were four millipede species, one opilionid, one nematode and a fossil centipede. At the time of his death, he was engaged in a decades-long effort to revise the millipede family Parajulidae, probably the most abundant and diverse family of millipedes in North America.

On a personal level, Dr. Shelley and his wife Lourdes enjoyed travel, particularly if it involved trains. Their international travel encompassed 50 countries. He had become an avid golfer in recent years.

Bill Shear