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CLARK W. BEASLEY (1942–2012)

SANDRA J. MCINNES

British Antarctic Survey, Natural Environmental Research Council, Madingley Road, Cambridge, CB3 0ET, UK.

Clark Wayne Beasley was born in Pittsburg, Kansas, USA on 6 June 1942. He graduated from Kansas State College of Pittsburg in 1964 and went on to successfully defend his PhD on the tardigrades of Oklahoma in 1968 at the University of Oklahoma. Clark moved to McMurray College in 1969 to become an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, accepting the chair in 1973 as an Associate Professor, became a full Professor in 1977 and Distinguished Professor in 1999. He was awarded the McMurray College “Gordon and Lola Bennett Scholar Award” in 2009 in recognition of his continuing contributions to outstanding teaching, scholarship, and service to the university. Clark retired in 2010.

Clark had been a member of a variety of American Honour Societies, including TriBeta and Phi Sigma (both for Biological Sciences), Sigma Xi (a Scientific Research Society) and Omicron Delta Kappa (a national leadership society). He also joined professional organisations; Southwestern Association of Naturalists and American Microscopical Society. Clark was awarded the Boy Scouts of America District Award of Merit, Southern District, Chisholm Trail Council (December, 1980) for his work with this group. In a professional capacity Clark was a Consultant to Fairleigh Dickinson Laboratories, Inc., Abilene, TX, for a parasitology study for the City of Abilene, in January 1988.



FIGURE 1. Professor Clark Beasley at the XI International Symposium on Tardigrada held in Tübingen, Germany (2009). Photograph by Diane Nelson.

With a PhD in Zoology, Clark had an interest in tardigrades from early in his career. Whilst he taught and wrote on other subjects his interest in tardigrades continued. Clark was present at the 3rd International Symposium of Tardigrada at Johnson City, Tennessee in August 1980, continued to attend all the meetings, and had been looking forward to joining the 12th Symposium at Porto, Portugal last year. With assistance from other English speakers Clark translated the Tardigrade ‘bible’ (Ramazzotti and Maucci 1983 *Il Phylum Tardigrada*) from the original Italian, and published the English version at McMurray University. This tome has been the major starting point of most tardigrade studies and the English version widely appreciated. Clark carried out several field trips, which included the Peoples Republic of China in 1990, 1992, 1996 and 2005, that provided a wealth of material for his tardigrade studies (e.g. Beasley 1999; Kaczmarek & Beasley 2002; Beasley & Miller 2007; 2012). Clark was involved in naming a genus, twelve tardigrade species (see Table 1), and is remembered in the species names of two tardigrades (*Pseudechiniscus beasleyi* Li, Wang & Yu, 2007 and *Milnesium beasleyi* Kaczmarek, Jakubowska & Michalczyk 2012). A list of his publications is given below.

After the launch of the Journal *Zootaxa* in 2001, Clark became one of the first Associate Editors (phylum Tardigrada) and was quietly successful in assisting many to publish over the subsequent nine years (77 papers in total). Clark’s support, assistance and guidance to both early stage researches and those with longer track records will be sadly missed.

TABLE 1. Tardigrades associated with Clark Beasley’s work.

Description	Taxa [synonym]	Type Locale [biogeographic data]
New Genus	<i>Haplohexapodibius</i> Pilato & Beasley, 1987	
New Species	<i>Echiniscus clevelandi</i> Beasley, 1999	Asia; China—Yunnan Province
	<i>Echiniscus lineatus</i> Pilato, Fontoura, Lisi & Beasley, 2008	Asia; China—Yunnan Province
	<i>Milnesium katarzynae</i> Kaczmarek, Michalczyk & Beasley, 2004	Asia; China—Sichuan Province [Central America; Costa Rica]
	<i>Haplohexapodibius seductor</i> Pilato & Beasley, 1987 [Hexapodibius beasleyi Maucci, 1988]	North America; USA—Oklahoma [Africa; South Africa, South America; Chile]
	<i>Haplomacrobotus utahensis</i> Pilato & Beasley, 2005	North America; USA—Utah
	<i>Hypsibius macrocalcaratus</i> Beasley, 1988	North America; USA—New Mexico [North America; USA—Arizona, Colorado, California, Montana, Oklahoma, Texas]
	<i>Doryphoribius barbarae</i> Beasley & Miller, 2012	Asia; China—Hubei Province
	<i>Doryphoribius bertolanii</i> Beasley & Pilato, 1987	North America; USA—Oklahoma [Central America; Puerto Rico]
	<i>Doryphoribius gibber</i> Beasley & Pilato, 1987	North America; USA—Arkansas [Central America; Mexico]
	<i>Doryphoribius mexicanus</i> Beasley, Kaczmarek & Michalczyk, 2008	Central America; Mexico
	<i>Dactylobiotus kansae</i> Beasley, Kaczmarek & Michalczyk, 2008	North America; USA—Kansas
	Re-descriptions	<i>Echiniscus scabrospinosus</i> Fontoura, 1982
<i>Doryphoribius zyxiglobus</i> (Horning, Schuster & Grigarick 1978)		New Zealand; Chatham Islands
<i>Platicrista cheleusis</i> Kathman, 1990 [<i>Diphascion craigi</i> Beasley, 1990]		North America; Canada—British Columbia [North America; Canada—Alberta, USA—Colorado]

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