

David J. Rogers: Cassava Research Pioneer (1918-2007)



David Rogers; cassava research pioneer has passed away on May, 14 this year. Born in Florida in 1918. He received his bachelor's degree in botany at the University of Florida, Gainesville, in 1941. After 4.5 years of military service in the United States Army in World War II, he continued his graduate education at Washington University, St. Louis, receiving the M. A. degree in 1949 and Ph.D. in 1951. His major studies were in taxonomic botany, with emphasis on monographic studies in the Euphorbiaceae.

He has held teaching and research positions at Allegheny College, Meadville, Pa., at The New York Botanical Garden (editor of *ECONOMIC BOTANY*), as Professor of Botany at Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, and at the University Colorado, Department of Biology. He has been a consultant to the Rockefeller and Ford Foundations, the Agency for International Development and the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations.

Dr. Rogers' major interest has been in economic botany, with strong emphasis on systematic development of computer programs to aid in the analysis of complex problems in biology. He (and a staff of ten interdisciplinary personnel) developed taximetric procedures as powerful aids to the biologist in understanding of complex phenomena. His concern for application of research findings to problems of humanity are indicated by his numerous endeavors to aid in the improvement to the cultigen, *Manihot esculenta*, and by recent interdisciplinary environmental analyses.

Rogers is remembered by his contributions to cassava breeding cited by all Scientists in this field.

"He was not only a great scientist but also a wonderful humanist. The Cassava world has been orphaned by his demise. Please convey my condolence to his family." Said Prof. Swaminathan father of green revolution.

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