



S. Bradleigh Vinson: Life and Contributions

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Dr. S. Bradleigh Vinson, professor at Texas A & M University, College Station, TX, retired on January 31, 2016, after 47 years of employment. He is internationally recognized for research in the physiology and behaviour of parasitic Hymenoptera, imported fire ants (IFAs), and solitary bees of the genus *Centris*. Vinson was born in Mansfield, Ohio on April 1938, he is known throughout the world for his work on the physiological ecology of parasitic wasps, including polydnviruses, which are viruses that are injected along with venom and an egg into a host caterpillar. These viruses prevent the caterpillar's immune system from attacking the wasp's egg when the host is stung.

Other projects of Vinson includes work on chemical communication between hosts and their natural enemies in the form of pheromones, various aspects of reproductive biology, tritrophic interactions between parasitoids, their host insects, and host plants the pest species feed upon.

In addition, he has conducted largely independent research programs on the ecology and biology of red imported fire ants and the field ecology of solitary bees inhabiting the forests of Costa Rica. His latest projects include writing a book about the use of *Trichogramma* wasps, tiny stingless wasps that parasitize other insects' eggs, and collaborating with colleagues in the College of Engineering on a research project involving cockroaches serving as drones.

Inspiration for writing contributions of S. Bradleigh Vinson:

Mutualism between eukaryotes and viruses is not often reported and one of those kinds is Polydnviruses, first discovered by Bradleigh Vinson accidentally. This caught my interest and inspired me to know about him.

Polydnviruses that live in association with parasitoid wasps are the best-known example of insect-vector symbionts.

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