

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR WILLIAM DAVID [BILL] WILLIAMS 1936-2002

Bill Williams may be an unfamiliar name to most BMIG members, but he provided much of the basis of our understanding of the distribution and ecology of freshwater isopods (*Asellus* spp) in Britain and Ireland. His contribution of keys and descriptive notes on *Asellus* to the Freshwater Biological Association's 1960 *Key to the British species of Crustacea: Malacostraca occurring in fresh water* has stood the test of time well, being republished with amendments and important additions in 1976 and 1993, the last being still in print.

Bill Williams was a Liverpudlian, but he emigrated to Australia in 1961, soon after completing his PhD at the University of Liverpool on the ecology of *Asellus aquaticus* and *A. meridianus*. He had a distinguished academic career and was appointed to the Chair of Zoology at the University of Adelaide in 1975, when only 39, and produced more than 250 publications. He retired (nominally) from Adelaide in 1994 and died in Brisbane on 26 January 2002. Perhaps his most fundamental message in freshwater ecology was that half the water bodies of the world are closed saline systems, unlike, and no less important than, the 'normal' freshwater systems that flow to the sea.

His early work on *Asellus* in Britain for his PhD led to the FBA *Key*, and to six other publications (see below) on British *Asellus*. This work formed the basis for county distribution maps of *Asellus* included in only the first edition of the *Key*. It was the more detailed data, underlying these simplified maps that he generously passed to me in the 1970s. At that time I was working with Professor H.P. Moon to produce our *Preliminary review of the occurrence of Asellus in the British Isles*, published in 1981. I still have the original cards of distribution records that Bill Williams compiled for his PhD.

Bill Williams will be remembered with affection, respect and gratitude by those that knew him. His contribution to BMIG's activities through his work on British *Asellus* deserves to be recognised, but we also need to get out there again with our pond nets to finish the task that he (and Philip Moon) helped to start.

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY OF W. D. WILLIAMS' PUBLICATIONS ON BRITISH AND IRISH ASELLUS

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