

# A Tribute to Charles Valentine Riley: American Entomologist

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**C**harles Valentine Riley (1843–1895), the pioneer American entomologist, is especially recognized at this centennial symposium for several reasons.

Charles Valentine Riley (Fig. 1) was one of the founders and, in 1889, the first president of the American Association of Economic Entomologists. In 1953, the association joined with the Entomological Society of America (ESA) (started in 1906, with John Henry Comstock of Cornell as first president) to form the modern, broadly representative ESA, the largest entomological society in the world. Riley was a world-renowned scientist and research leader, a key figure in setting American entomology on a course of serving society. He was a marvelously successful exponent of applied science, and he helped create a new fusion between biological and agricultural knowledge.

It is fitting that recognition of Riley is a part of ESA's centennial symposium in Washington, D.C., where he was vitally influential in the development of federal and federally supported agricultural research. And it is particularly fitting that he is recognized in this institution, the Smithsonian, where he established the U.S. National Collection of Insects, the most important collection of its kind in the world, after those of the British Museum (London) and the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle (Paris).

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