

Alliance of
Natural History Museums
of Canada



Alliance des
Musées d'Histoire Naturelle
du Canada

Celebrating 20 years of collaboration

Célébrant 20 ans de collaboration

MEDIA RELEASE

RELEASE DATE: October 18, 2022

DR. REGINALD WEBSTER Recipient of the 2022 Bruce Naylor Award

Dr. Reginald Webster is the 2022 recipient of the Alliance of Natural History Museum's (ANHMC) *Bruce Naylor Award*. The award is given annually to an individual or individuals to recognize achievement of national or international significance in the field of natural history in Canada. The award will be presented to **Dr. Reginald Webster** at the annual ANHMC Fall meeting hosted by the **Canadian Museum of Nature** on October 18th.

Dr. Reginald Webster is an entomologist. In more than 100 scientific papers, he has revealed the diversity of Canadian insects, particularly beetles, but also butterflies and mosquitoes. "Dr. Webster has been a **New Brunswick Museum Research Associate** since 2004, and there is probably no other individual who has contributed so much to our understanding of Maritime insect diversity, both in terms of published work and vouchers deposited in natural history collections," says **Dr. Donald McAlpine, Head of the Department of Natural History at the New Brunswick Museum**. Dr. Webster has personally documented more than a 1000 beetle species new to Atlantic Canada, many of them important in terms of forest management and ecosystem function "It is truly a remarkable achievement that is testament, not only to his keen eye for taxonomic and microhabitat differences, but also to his unflagging enthusiasm for his subjects over nearly 3 decades of intensive survey and study," says **Dr. Alwynne Beaudoin, President of the ANHMC and Director of Curatorial and Research at the Royal Alberta Museum**. Among those 1200 or so beetle species new to New Brunswick are also more than several dozen that Dr. Webster and colleagues have described as new to science. His contributions have not been confined to New Brunswick. His papers have also reported on beetles new to Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia, and the Yukon, and especially Prince Edward Island.

Dr. Webster received his PhD from the Michigan State University for studies related to pheromones and the control of insect agricultural pests. Originally from the USA, he began his working career in Canada following post-docs in the US and Quebec helping to develop pheromones to control forest insect pests. Dr. Webster's contributions have not been limited to field studies of insects and collections building. He was heavily involved in the first Maritime Butterfly Atlas, a citizen science project that will provide the baseline for future monitoring of this popular and important group of insects. He has mentored a number of students with interests in entomology. All have benefited greatly from his guidance and several are now pursuing graduate degrees in entomology. Now officially retired, Dr. Webster continues to be productive and he has expanded his field surveys to cover micro-moths, often an extremely challenging group to identify. His remarkable eye for microhabitat has resulted in dozens of species new to the Maritimes and the science of New Brunswick entomology is all the richer for it.

The ANHMC is a national network of natural history museums and similar institutions dedicated to the preservation and understanding of Canada's natural heritage and the enhancement of the benefits museums provide to the people of Canada.

For more information and to arrange interviews, contact:

Elizabeth McCrea

Chief Administrative Officer

Alliance of Natural History Museums of Canada (613) 410-

1199 / mccrealiz@gmail.com