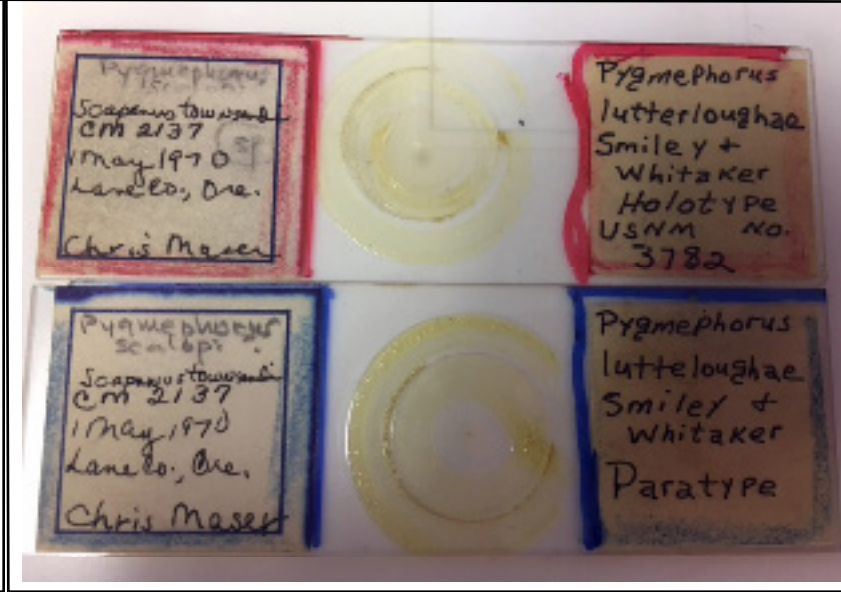


SOPHIE LUTTERLOUGH

(1910 - 2009) **Subject:** Millipedes, centipedes, ticks

Field: Taxonomy **Nationality:** American

Entomologist
of the
Month



Sophie Lutterlough worked at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History (NMNH), where she classified and restored hundreds of thousands of arthropods. In 1943, Lutterlough worked at the NMNH as an elevator attendant. Lutterlough wanted a curation job, but her race barred her from employment in the museum's curatorial and science fields. As an elevator operator, Lutterlough spent her lunch breaks studying the museum exhibits and became "a one-women information bureau" to museum visitors. After 14 years working as an elevator operator, she was finally permitted to work as an insect preparator at the museum. While on the job, she developed expertise in taxonomy by studying many entomological texts and identification keys. Within two years, she was promoted to research assistant. During her time at NMNH she restored and identified thousands of centipedes, and millipedes, ticks, and insects. She also helped to describe and catalog 40 type specimens, which are reference specimens upon which the description of new species are based. After 40 years at the museum, Lutterlough retired from NMNH in 1983, after earning the Smithsonian's Exemplary Service Award. In 1979, scientists named the mite, *Pygmephorus lutterloughae*, in her honor.

References:

- Sayah O. 2016. "It Won't Be Easy to Leave after 40 Years": Sophie Lutterlough's Career at the National Museum of Natural History. Smithsonian Institute Archives
- "Sophie G. Lutterlough". Asbury Park Press. USA Today Network.
- This factsheet was produced by Katie Barie, a Penn State Insect Biodiversity Center graduate student

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