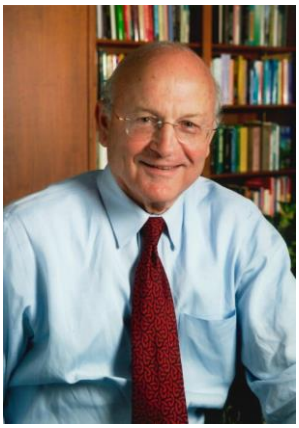
In memoriam



Remembering Prof. Wyatt Anderson (1939-2023)

On Saturday, Nov. 11, 2023, Wyatt Anderson passed away, at the assisted living facility of Presbyterian Village in Athens, Georgia, U.S.A. He was 84 years old. For many Serbian scientists, Wyatt Anderson was an important advocate, being a foreign member of the Serbian Academy of Arts and Sciences and who collaborated with several geneticists from the University of Belgrade. He was a mentor to our late Prof. Nikola Tucić, who was on a sabbatical at the University of Georgia in 1982. In addition to Prof. Anderson's academic connections with Serbian geneticists, he also mentored graduates from the University of Belgrade. For example, Mr. Aleksandar Popadić, a biology graduate, was a PhD student in Anderson's lab from 1988 to 1995, and his wife, Ms. Danijela Popadic, worked as a research assistant in the same lab. Today, Dr. Aleksandar Popadić is a Professor of Genetics at the Wayne State University in Michigan.

Wyatt Anderson had a very accomplished career and made a lasting impact in the field of evolutionary biology/genetics. He was born in Texas, but later his family moved to coastal Georgia. Wyatt studied at the University of Georgia in Athens, where he earned his B.S. and M.S. in Zoology. After graduation, in 1962 Wyatt went to graduate school at the Rockefeller Institute in New York (now Rockefeller University) with Prof, Theodosius Dobzhansky. He used to say that he discovered his interest in evolutionary genetics of Drosophila in Dobzhansky's lab. He completed his doctorate in 1967 and became a faculty member at the Yale University. Several years later he decided to go back to his home state, and to the University of Georgia. Most importantly, he was able to bring few other geneticists from Yale and form a new Genetics Department at UGA, where he was the first chair. Over the years of his productive academic career, Wyatt Anderson was elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. In 2007 he became a foreign member of the Serbian Academy of Science. He had leadership roles in the Society for the Study of Evolution, the American Genetic Association, and the American

Society of Naturalists. He also served on journal editorial boards and was Associate Editor of the Annual Review of Genetics. His main research interests were Evolutionary genetics of mating behavior and chromosomal polymorphisms of Drosophila species; evolutionary genomics of Drosophila; science education and minority participation in college science curricula. In the 1990's, Wyatt Anderson was promoted to the Alumni Foundation Distinguished Professor of Genetics, and he served as Dean of the Franklin College of Arts & Sciences for 12 years. He was also a scientist with deep dedication to the arts, and as a dean made significant contributions to the UGA Performing Arts Center and the Museum of Arts.

There is an interesting historical connection between genetics department at the University of Belgrade, with the genetics department at University of Georgia, as well as several other prominent Universities in the United States. This is due to a long legacy of a famous Drosophila geneticist and evolutionary biologist, Prof. Theodosius Dobzhansky, who was a mentor not only to Wyatt Anderson, but to several other well-known geneticists, most of them later becoming members of the American Academy of Sciences. Prof. Dobzhansky also opened his research lab to many European geneticists, such as our Professor Dragoslav Marinković, later a full-time member of the Serbian Academy of Science and a founder of the Department of Genetics, at the University of Belgrade. Wyatt Anderson was one of the younger PhD. Students of Dobzhansky and he often spoke about his famous mentor and his philosophy of science writings. I met Wyatt in 1983, after I completed my MSc at the University of Belgrade and went for a yearlong sabbatical at the University of California. I was working in the lab of yet another former student of Dobzhansky, late Prof. Francisco Ayala. In 1988, I accepted Wyatt's letter of invitation to do Postdoctoral research, in his lab at the University of Georgia. At that time, Wyatt worked on an interesting project with *Drosophila pseudoobscura* populations, and I was able to complete my research using Mitochondrial DNA markers to study fitness and life history traits. Wyatt and his wife Margaret, came to visit University of Belgrade, in December 1989, as I too returned home to the University of Belgrade. Few years later, for family reasons, I returned to Georgia, and took a Research associate position in Wyatt Anderson's lab from 1992-1995. Later, I became a professor in a small college in the UGA neighborhood and continued to collaborate with Dr. Anderson. In 2005, I accepted a new faculty position at the well-known Georgia Institute of Technology, in Atlanta. In these three decades of my academic work in the United States, I taught Genetics, Evolution and Bioethics classes, often remembering Wyatt's advice and his valuable examples of being an excellent mentor and educator. In closing, I wanted to include a small selection of papers (out of ~130) representing research of Wyatt Anderson, including the two example publications relevant to his connection with the University of Belgrade*.

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Appendix:

Anderson, W.W. and C.E. King. 1970. Age-specific selection. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.USA 66:780-786.

Anderson, W.W., L. Olvera, J.R. Powell, M.E. de la Rosa, V.M. Salceda, M.I. Gaso, and J. Guzman. 1979. Evidence for selection by male mating success in natural populations of Drosophila pseudoobscura. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 76:1519-1523.

Anderson, W.W. 1989. Selection in natural and experimental populations of Drosophila pseudoobscura. Proc. XVI Inter. Cong. Genet., Genome 31:239-245.

Milosevic-Brockett, M., H. Alavi, and W. Anderson. 1996. The relative effects of female fecundity and male mating success on fertility selection in Drosophila pseudoobscura. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 93:3080-3082.*

Popadic, A. and W. Anderson. 1996. The evolutionary history of the amylase multigene family in Drosophila pseudoobscura. Molecular Biology and Evolution 13:883-888*
Schaeffer, S. W. and W. W. Anderson. 2005. Mechanisms of genetic exchange within the chromosomal inversions of Drosophila pseudoobscura. Genetics 171:1-11.

Anderson, W. W., Y.-K. Kim, and P. A. Gowaty, 2007. Experimental constraints on mate preferences in Drosophila pseudoobscura decrease offspring viability and fitness of mated pair. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 104: 4484-4488.