

grassy bald, Roan Mtn., Tennessee. Reference to the Grassy Bald collection site lead to a number of comments from members regarding this unusual habitat.

President Sabrosky reported receiving a letter from Mrs. A. L. Melander. She indicated that at 93 she was enjoying good health and was active.

Dr. Sabrosky announced the passing of two well known Dipterists, C. H. Curran and W. R. Thompson.

President Sabrosky introduced the main speaker for the evening Dr. Terry L. Erwin of the Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution.

#### CARABID BEETLES, MOUNTAIN TOPS, AND TREES

The common name "Predaceous ground beetles" is a misnomer! Not only are many Carabidae omnivorous, scavengers, or vegetarians (seeds), but fully  $\frac{1}{2}$  or more of the tropical species live on trees, foliage, or at least off the ground. I propose the common name be regarded as (the sometimes now used) "carabid beetles." It is apparent that certain characteristics of member species are widespread within faunal elements. Generally, species of mountain tops share similar character states (e.g. dark color, loss of flight, compact bodies) even though the species are unrelated, and even though the mountains may be on different sides of the world. The same can be seen in arboreal elements (e.g. large eyes, padded tarsi, elongate lateral setae of the elytra) and subepigeal elements (e.g. small eyes, pale colors, asymmetric anterior tarsi of males). Some of these infrataxa character states within faunal elements are obviously selected by the environment through species energy conservation (e.g. small eyes in lightless subepigeal microhabitats, wing loss on mountain tops) while others have no apparent relationships. It should be possible to characterize faunas by "shared character states" and then predict habitats for "apparently" rare species known from only old specimens with poor data. The only realistic way to study these character functions is to pursue observational field work. Plans for studies on arboreal faunas are now well underway and results should be forthcoming soon.—  
TERRY L. ERWIN, *Entomology Department, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., 20560.*

Following introduction of guests the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 P.M. Refreshments were served.

DEWEY M. CARON, *Recording Secretary.*

#### 795th Regular Meeting—March 3, 1972

The 795th Regular Meeting of the Entomological Society of Washington was called to order by President Curtis W. Sabrosky March 3, 1972 in Room 43, USNM. Forty-five members and 32 guests were in attendance. Minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

President-Elect Burditt announced that the annual ESW-ISW banquet will be June 1 at the 4-H Center. The speaker has not yet been selected; Mr. Burditt welcomed suggestions.

President Sabrosky discussed the recent executive committee meeting and indicated the financial problems facing the society. Several changes affecting the Proceedings, all designed to strengthen the finances were mentioned. One additional change recommended by the executive committee to the members in attendance was presented in writing as provided by the By-laws. It was proposed