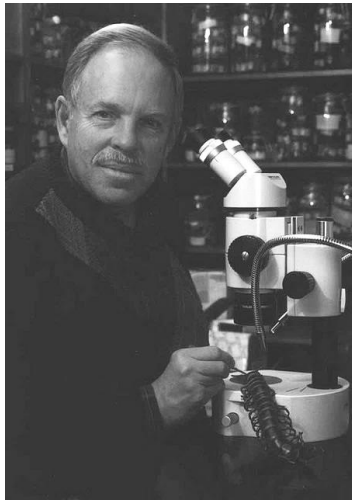


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## Obituary

**Rowland M. Shelley**  
 (1942-2018)



Rowland M. Shelley, with specimen  
 of *Scolopendra gigantea* Linnaeus, 1758.

Dr. Rowland M. Shelley, former Curator of Invertebrates at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and internationally renowned authority on millipedes (Class Diplopoda) died on November 11, 2018, in Raleigh, North Carolina. The cause of his death was pneumonia, following surgery for a knee replacement. Survivors include his wife of 38 years Lourdes O. Shelley, son Stephen (Theresa), stepson Demian Hardister (Lisa), three grandchildren, and a sister.

Dr. Shelley was born in Raleigh on September 9, 1942, and was a graduate of Broughton High School (1960), The University of North Carolina (BS, 1964), and North Carolina State University (PhD in physiology, 1970). He was employed by the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences for 44 years, until his retirement in 2015. In March 2013, the museum hosted a symposium in his honor on non-insect terrestrial invertebrates in the southeastern United States. Even after retiring, Dr. Shelley continued to work from a home laboratory and to publish significant scientific papers. He was a research associate in the Department of Entomology at the University of Tennessee, the Virginia Museum of Natural History, and the Florida State Collection of Arthropods, and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Zoology at North Carolina State University.

Dr. Shelley published more than 300 papers (some

forthcoming posthumously) on the systematics and biogeography of millipedes, centipedes, scorpions, and several other taxa. His early field work in North Carolina included surveys for freshwater mussels. His research was supported by the National Science Foundation, the National Geographic Society, and the Smithsonian Institution, among others. Among his important achievements were a monograph on the scolopendromorph centipedes of North America, a revision and biogeographical treatise on the xystodesmid millipede genus *Sigmoria*, and a world-wide survey (with colleague Sergei Golovatch) of the distribution of millipede orders. A few months prior to his death, he published a revised classification of the important millipede family Xystodesmidae that included numerous innovations. He was a diligent and dedicated field worker and travelled over much of the North American continent in search of materials for his research, as well as visiting virtually every museum in the United States and Canada with a significant millipede collection; in many cases he reorganized the collections he found.

Dr. Shelley was the author of one millipede family (Hoffmanobolidae Shelley, 2001), two subfamilies, 11 tribes and subtribes, 38 genera, and 210 species. The millipede genus *Shelleyomorpha* Golovatch, 1997 was named for him, as were four millipede species, one opilionid, and one nematode. Among the species Dr. Shelley described is *Sigmoria whiteheadi*, one of only two millipedes with protected status in Virginia (listed as state threatened by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries). He also maintained a website on myriapods (<http://www.nadiplochilo.com/>; also available at <https://ag.tennessee.edu/EPP/Pages/Nadiplochilo/Nadiplochilo.aspx>).

On a personal level, Dr. Shelley and his wife Lourdes enjoyed travel, particularly if it involved trains. Their international travel encompassed 50 countries and included attendance at numerous international myriapod



Lourdes and Rowland Shelley at Iguazú Falls (Argentina-Brazil border).

congresses. He had become an avid golfer in recent years.

Dr. Shelley's connections with Virginia were strong, and he regarded the late Richard L. Hoffman, formerly Curator of Recent Invertebrates at the Virginia Museum of Natural History, as his mentor. His works on millipedes often involved specimens from Virginia. Below is a short list of some of his publications with relevance to Virginia.

- Shelley, R. M. 1976. Millipeds of the *Sigmoria latior* complex (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 89: 17–38.
- Shelley, R. M. 1979. A synopsis of the milliped genus *Cambala*, with a description of *C. minor* Bollman (Spirostreptida: Cambalidae). Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington 92: 551–571.
- Shelley, R. M. 1979. The status of *Sigmoria gracilipes* Chamberlin, with remarks on the milliped genus *Brachoria* (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae). Florida Entomologist 62: 220–223.
- Shelley, R. M. 1980. Revision of the milliped genus *Pleuroloma* (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae). Canadian Journal of Zoology 58: 129–168.
- Shelley, R. M. 1981. Revision of the milliped genus *Sigmoria* (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae). Memoirs of the American Entomological Society No. 33. 141 pp.
- Shelley, R. M. 1984. A synopsis of the milliped genus *Abacion* Rafinesque (Callipodida: Caspiopetalidae). Canadian Journal of Zoology 62: 980–988.
- Shelley, R. M., & D. R. Whitehead. 1986. A reconsideration of the milliped genus *Sigmoria*, with a revision of *Deltotaria*, and an analysis of the genera in the tribe Apheloriini (Polydesmida: Xystodesmidae). Memoirs of the American Entomological Society No. 35. 223 pp.
- Shelley, R. M. 1987. Unionid mollusks from the upper Cape Fear River basin, North Carolina, with a comparison of the faunas of the Neuse, Tar, and Cape Fear drainages (Bivalvia: Unionacea). Brimleyana 13: 67–89.
- Shelley, R. M. 1990. Occurrence of the milliped *Auturus erythropygos erythropygos* in Virginia (Polydesmida: Platyrahacidae). Brimleyana 16: 61–62.
- Shelley, R. M. 1990. A naturalist at Appomattox. The Virginia Explorer 6: 9.
- Whitehead, D. R., & R. M. Shelley. 1992. Mimicry among aposematic Appalachian xystodesmid millipeds (Polydesmida). Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 94: 177–188.
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- Shelley, R. M. 1994. Distribution of the scorpion, *Vaejovis carolinianus* (Beauvois), a reevaluation. Brimleyana 21: 57–68.
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- Shelley, R. M. 1998. The milliped family Polyzoniidae in North America, with a classification of the global fauna (Polyzoniida). Arthropoda Selecta 6(3/4): 3–34.
- Shelley, R. M. 1999. Centipedes and millipedes with emphasis on North American fauna. Kansas School Naturalist 45(3): 1–15.
- Shelley, R. M. 2000. Parajulid Studies II. The subgenus *Hakiulus* Chamberlin (Julida: Parajulidae: Parajulinae: Aniulini). Myriapodologica 6: 121–145.
- Shelley, R. M. 2001. A synopsis of the milliped genus *Aniulus* Chamberlin (Julida: Parajulidae: Parajulinae: Aniulini). Texas Memorial Museum, Speleological Monographs 5: 73–94.
- Shelley, R. M. 2002. A synopsis of the North American centipedes of the order Scolopendromorpha (Chilopoda). Memoir of the Virginia Museum of Natural History 5: 1–108.
- Shear, W. A., & R. M. Shelley. 2004. Introduction of the milliped *Cleidogona nantahala* Shear, 1972, in New England (Chordeumatida: Cleidogonidae). Entomological News 115(2): 88–94.
- McAllister, C. T., R. M. Shelley, H. Enghoff, & Z. D. Ramsey. 2005. Distribution of the milliped *Virgoiulus minutus* (Brandt, 1841) (Julida: Blaniulidae). Western North American Naturalist 65(2): 258–266.
- Shelley, R. M., C. T. McAllister, & T. Tanabe. 2005. A synopsis of the milliped genus *Brachycybe* Wood, 1864 (Platydesmida: Andrognathidae). Fragmenta Faunistica 48(2): 137–166.

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