FORREST SHREVE

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ECOLOGY

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FORREST SHREVE
1878–1950

Forrest Shreve gave most of his productive life to the study of the deserts of North Amerca and the relation of this desert vegetation to the factors of the environment. During the first half of this century he has occupied a position of prime importance in this field. He held faithfully to the objectives set up by the founders of the Desert Laboratory and his work was such as could be done only on plants growing under natural conditions. He held to the regional approach, a study of the structure, physiology and the natural history of the plant under natural conditions, all directed to the ultimate solution of the problems of the relation of the organism to its environment. It was the individual plant species rather than the complex plant community that appealed to Dr. Shreve for he found the relation of the plant to the environment much more important in the deserts than the relation of plant to plant. He was a field man, one who loved nature as he found it and strove to understand it and to interpret it to others. This interest and understanding he was able to instil into the minds of many of the younger men who worked with him when he was in charge of desert investigations.

Forrest Shreve began his botanical work at The Johns Hopkins University. Very soon his studies turned to the Montane Rain Forest in Jamaica in which he advanced our knowledge of transpiration and the means by which the vegetation of these tropical forests utilize the conditions of the environment. Soon he turned to the vegetation of Maryland, his native state, and later to the vegetation of the United States. With this broad background he went, in 1908, to the Desert Laboratory at Tucson, Arizona established by the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Here he remained and worked until the time of his death.

His studies centered mostly on the Sonoran Desert and on the Chihuahuan Desert but extended to a Desert Mountain Range, a Coastal Mountain Range, and with Burton E. Livingston to the Distribution of Vegetation in the United States. About seventy titles of his papers are available to this author, mainly from the card catalog of the U. S. Department of Agriculture Library, and these are presented here as a bibliography to illustrate the scope of his interests, and his remarkable productivity as a scientist.

Dr. Shreve married Edith Coffin Bellamy in 1909 well known and highly regarded for her work in plant physiology and whose counsel was exceptionally sound in this important field.

Born in Easton, Maryland July 8, 1878, Dr. Shreve died in Tucson, Arizona July 19, 1950 at the age of 72 years. He received the A. B. degree in 1901 and the Ph. D. degree in 1905 at The Johns Hopkins University. He was Associate Professor of Botany at Goucher College, 1906–1908, Staff Member, Department of Botanical Research Carnegie Institution, 1908–1927, and in charge of Desert Investigations since 1928. In 1911 he became Managing Editor of THE PLANT WORLD, and continued the work through 1919, until that journal was taken over as the official organ of The Ecological Society of America. To this day, the front

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cover of ECOLOGY carries the line "Continuing The Plant World." THE PLANT WORLD played an important part in the field of plant ecology during these years. Shreve was one of the founders of the Ecological Society of America, was secretary-treasurer 1915–1919 and president in 1921. In 1926 he was editor of the Naturalists Guide to the Americas.

He was an active member of many scientific societies including the following: fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; member of the Botanical Society of America; the Ecological Society of America; the American Society of Naturalists; the Association of American Geographers; the Society of American Foresters; and the California Botanical Society. The VII International Botanical Congress in Stockholm in 1950 selected him as one of the Honorary Presidents of the Congress, and he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi.

The following bibliography is thought to be very nearly complete.

H. L. SHANTZ
454 PASEO DEL DESCANSO
SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

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