

Obituary: Sherman Anthony Minton Jr.

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Dr. Sherman Anthony Minton Jr., died of cancer in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA, on 15 June 1999, at the age of 80. He was born on the 24 February 1919, in New Albany, Indiana, where he also attended school. He had a fondness for amphibians and reptiles even in his childhood. He was the eldest child of Senator Sherman Minton Sr., on whose suggestion young Sherman chose medicine instead of law, since medicine was closer to zoology. He obtained a BS in Zoology in 1939 and an MD in 1942 at Indiana University. He served during World War II in the U.S. Navy from 1943-1946. After the war, Sherman spent 1947-1948 at the University of Michigan Zoology Department, taking Herpetology and Microbiology. He later joined the faculty of Indiana University School of Medicine, in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, where he remained until he retired as Emeritus Professor in 1984. Dr. Minton's career presents a beautiful amalgamation of medicine, microbiology, and herpetology.

Sherman married Madge Alice Shortridge Rutherford on 10 October 1943, while both were in military service. He was in the Navy and she was flying with the Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP). Interestingly, Madge has also been interested in snakes from her childhood, so their relationship was also professional. They co-authored eight publications including two books, *Venomous Reptiles* (Minton and Minton 1969, 1980) and *Giant Reptiles* (Minton and Minton, 1973).

Minton took a break from Indiana (1958-1962) to teach at the Basic Medical Sciences Institute, Karachi, Pakistan (now Postgraduate Medical Center), as part of the U.S. AID program. He taught at the institute, reorganized the medical teaching courses, and headed the institute for a short time.

He pioneered herpetological studies in Pakistan. Both he and his wife Madge Minton traveled 44,000 miles in different parts of Pakistan, collecting amphibians and reptiles and information about them from the local people. One of the results of this is the well-illustrated paper on the amphibians and reptiles of Sind and Las Bela (1962). In 1965, he visited Iran and Pakistan under the sponsorship of American Museum of Natural History and collected material for his main book on the herpetology of Pakistan (1966).



Sherman, with Madge's constant support and help, produced over 170 articles, books and monographs. He was a pioneer in the study of venomous reptiles and toxicology. He was on the editorial board of the journals *Toxicon* and *Clinical Toxicology*. He was the chairman and a member of the major professional societies in his field and received numerous awards and honors for his work. He also made a significant contribution to the herpetology of Indiana.

From 1972-1980 he joined several expeditions to different oceans to study biology of sea snakes and other venomous sea animals. He was visiting professor in the Department of Zoology, University of New England in Australia during 1980.

In remembrance of Dr. Minton's services to the herpetology of Pakistan, the following fossil Ameri-

can frog and Pakistani lizard and snakes have been named after him:

Proacris mintoni Holman, 1961

Coluber karelini mintonorum Mertens, 1969

Gymnodactylus mintoni Golubev and Szczerbak, 1981

Typhlops madgemintonai shermanai Khan, 1999

Dr. Sherman A. Minton, Jr., is survived by his widow Madge Rutherford Minton, and three daughters.

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