In Memoriam: Jesús Santiago Moure (1912–2010)

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On 10 July 2010 the melittological community lost one of its great pioneers in the passing of Padre Dr. Jesús Santiago Moure, aged 97. Several obituaries or tributes have been published (e.g., Melo and Alves dos Santos, 2003; Melo and Urban, 2010; Urban and Melo, 2010; Ribeiro-Costa and Marinoni, 2011; Michener, 2011), but we believe a memoriam for JKES is appropriate given its long tradition in melittological systematics. Moreover, JKES readers may be unfamiliar with the time Padre Moure spent in Kansas, working on bees alongside Prof. Charles D. Michener in the mid-1950’s. There has been a close tie between the Society and Padre Moure for more than one-half century. Appended at the end of this note, we also provide an update to the catalog of the bee species described by Padre Moure (Urban, 2003), expanding it to include his weevil taxa, as well as a listing of his 266 scientific publications (Appendix 2).

Padre Moure was born in the early morning of 2 November 1912 in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, only two months after his parents, Miguel Moure Santiago and Maria Santiago Souto, had left from Galiza, Spain. Miguel had been summoned to the war in Morocco and, fearing to leave his pregnant wife alone, he swam the Minho River to escape conscription. He immediately accepted an invitation to move to Brazil and work in the construction of the Mogiana railway stations, settling his family in Ribeirão Preto. Later the family moved to Batatais and Caierias, and then to Santos in 1917. It was there, in Santos, that Moure began primary school before his family returned to Ribeirão Preto in 1920, and he finished his elementary schooling in 1923. In 1925, at the age of 12, Moure began studying at the Seminário Maior Claretiano in Cutiriba, where he learned to play the piano and organ.

In 1929 Moure entered into higher education at the Seminário Maior Claretiano in Rio Claro, earning in 1932 a degree in Philosophy (which at the time also included Natural History, Physics, and Mathematics). It was here and during this period that his passion for the natural sciences, particularly botany, was enlivened. He produced for the seminary a monograph of the flora of their grounds entitled, “Pugillus Rioclarensium Plantarum”. It was also during this time that, in the

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