

The key role Don Davis  
played throughout my  
career as mentor and  
advisor

by  
Marc Epstein,  
CDFA & NMNH

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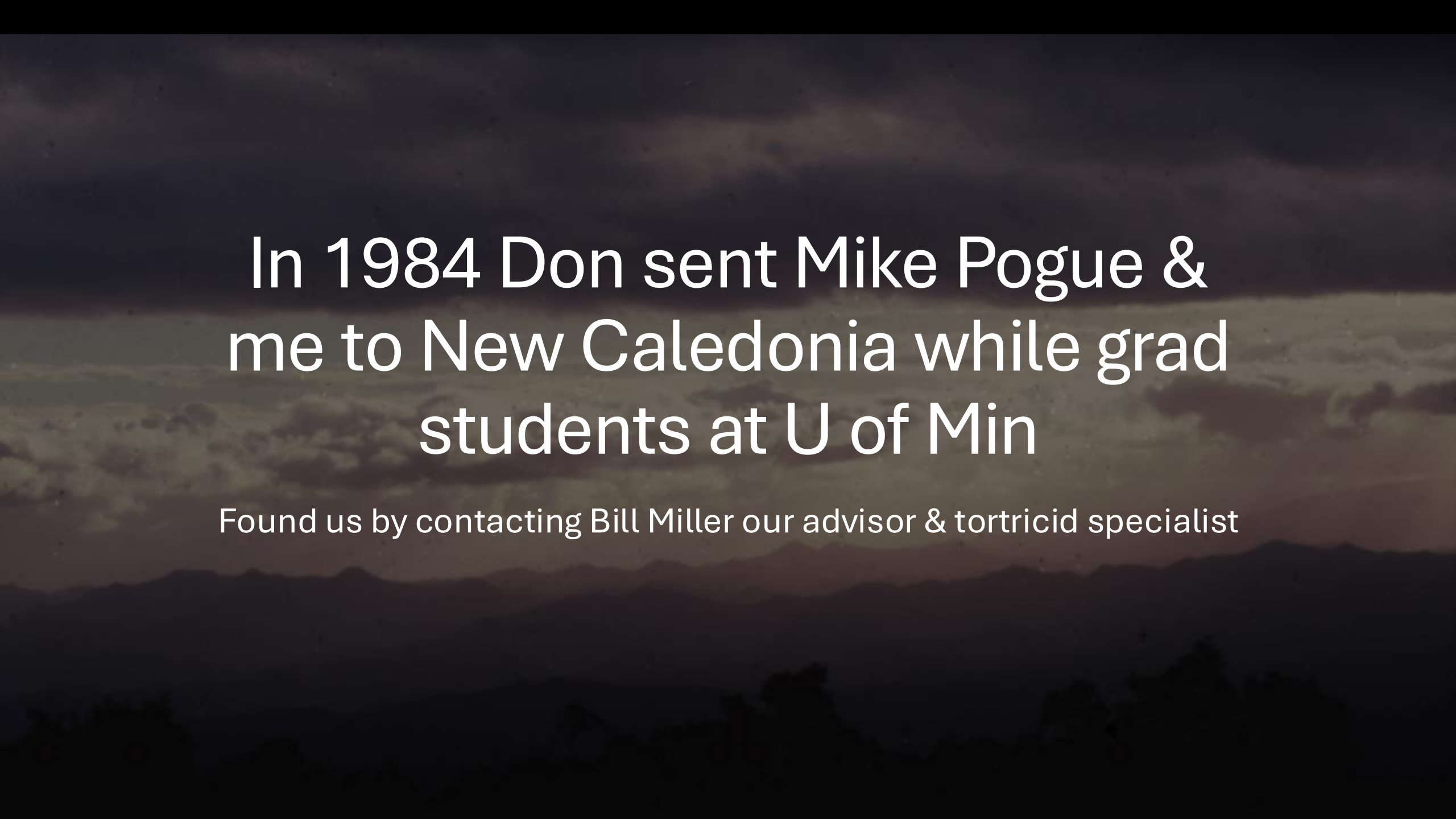


I'll always be grateful  
to both he and  
Mignon in helping me  
get settled in DC

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In 1984 Don sent Mike Pogue &  
me to New Caledonia while grad  
students at U of Min

Found us by contacting Bill Miller our advisor & tortricid specialist

Goal: collect  
Paleaphatidae –  
moth family Don  
would soon  
describe & as  
many moths as  
possible.  
Collect all other  
insects, too!



# Don's List For trip (partial...)

- Black Expedition boxes, with collapsed metal traps
- Black metal boxes spreading boards
- Cut pins for spreading boards
- Use glassine strips on boards & sand after each use
- Cardboard egg cartons & middle screen funnel
- Find marine batteries, carry them on shoulder, recharge from car – wood block on accelerator
- Put cyanide in paper lunch bags, poke holes
- Collect every night except perhaps arrival & depart days
- Malaise traps with Cyanide jars – all contents for Flint, Spangler & others
- A cooler for live material, plant press





It was from that trip that I decided to do my PhD on moths

Here's Mike Pogue with Gordon McPherson of Missouri Botanical Garden

Gordon did not appreciate the smell of Cyanide from our traps, as he took us to and from sites on his land rover





# *Lactura*

- On Mt. Dzmac
- Several stuck to my clothing while I was beating bushes
- Thought it was a limacodid at time
- Secretions similar to *Phauda*, in a related family

In addition to  
our New  
Caledonia trip  
Don would  
send others on  
foreign  
expeditons



Including Richard Brown, the late Ollie Pellmyr and J.F.  
Landry



On my return, Don  
suggested I work on  
limacodids for my  
dissertation topic  
- my research focus  
ever since





As my  
postdoc  
advisor, Don  
helped with  
other trips  
including  
Peru and the  
Llanos in  
Venezuela





On first trip to Venezuela called Don to tell him I was staying longer than the planned 2 months





Only problem: my bank account to pay field hands was robbed



During next trip, including Rancho Grande, my girlfriend Joan called Don for help. My car she had borrowed was impounded. He used his Smithsonian swag to get it out



Rancho Grande June 1988



Don's help didn't hurt. Here are Don & Mignon at our wedding the following year.



Bob R and Mike there too!



In closing, I have so much appreciation for the role Don played in my life,

not only as a mentor, but a friend

I had the honor of working with Don Davis on one of his final publications



Glad he was able to take pride in seeing the final product



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Research Article

## A new North American species of *Etainia* (Lepidoptera, Nepticulidae), feeding on *Arbutus* and *Arctostaphylos* species (Ericaceae)

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