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Rick has been a staff research associate in the Department of Entomology at the University of California Riverside since 1980. He has over 100 peer-review publications in scientific and medical journals, many of them involving spiders of medical concern such as recluse, widow, hobo and yellow sac spiders. He has authored the spider chapter for the 10th edition of Mallis' Handbook of Pest Control and coauthored the spider chapter for the 2nd edition of the textbook, Medical and Veterinary Entomology. In 2009, Rick was honored with an Ebeling Award by Pest Control Technology magazine for efforts to educate the medical community about brown recluse spider overdiagnoses. Finally, he has described two new spider species and has had two species of arachnids named in his honor.