Screwworm sex earns departed US duo a 'Golden Goose'

22 June 2016

The ins and outs of screwworm sex may not sound like a topic that would arouse passions. Yet, it seduced a pair of American entomologists who dedicated years to unravelling the flesh-eating creature's carnal exploits—sparking derision and accusations of wasteful spending.

More than half a century later, and years after their deaths, Edward Knipling and Raymond Bushland are being honoured with the Golden Goose award, which recognises worthy work at first thought "silly, odd or obscure".

"Screwworm research may sound like a joke, but it isn't," award creator Jim Cooper said in a statement Wednesday.

Bushland died in Texas in 1995 at 84, and while Knipling passed away five years later in Virginia at 90.

The award, funded by science institutes and universities, will be bestowed posthumously in September.

© 2016 AFP