Dr. Michael C. Thomas of Gainesville, FL passed away peacefully on Friday, October 4, 2019. He was 71 years old. Dr. Thomas was born in Miami, FL on May 5 1948, son of Charles and June Thomas.   
Dr. Thomas was the Chief of Entomology at the Florida Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry. He retired in 2013 after 31 years of service. Dr. Thomas was a groundbreaking collector and taxonomist who discovered several new beetle species in his lifetime.  
Survivors include his loving wife of 49 years, Sheila Thomas, children Andrea Thomas Houston and Erin Thomas, sister Judy Raymond, grandchildren Alex, James, Elizabeth and Grey and many nieces and nephews.