

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

RE: *ANOPHELES NIGERRIMUS* AS A VECTOR OF MALARIA IN INDIA

I write to point out an error in the otherwise excellent review of riceland mosquito breeding and control by Lacey and Lacey, *J. Am. Mosquito Control Assoc.* 6 (Supplement 2), June 1990. On page 26, it is stated that *Anopheles nigerrimus* plays a locally major role as a malaria vector in India. This is totally wrong. Rao (1984) in "The Anophelines of India" has pointed out that thousands of dissections have been carried out in this country and no specimens have been found naturally infected. Table 1 (page 11) has it correctly; the species occurs in India and is considered to be a minor vector in Malaysia (Reid 1968, Harrison and Scanlon 1975). This needs to be pointed out because people believe what they read in your journal and this mistaken notion seems to be creeping into the literature. Gratz, in "Vector-Borne Disease Control on Humans Through Rice Agrosystem Management" (1988) also has *An. nigerrimus* among important ricefield breeding malaria species in India.

REFERENCES CITED

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AUTHORS' RESPONSE

One of the perils of relying on older literature is that we could not be absolutely certain when a particular fact has been disproved or is simply a matter of opinion between investigators. Our decision to use the statement regarding *An. nigerrimus* was reinforced by other writings such as that of Gratz (1988). The question mark in front of the word malaria under the species in Table 1 (page 11) was probably due to what we read in Rao (1984).

Table 1 could be reinforced with the following statement:

The distribution of any given species in Table 1 is the global distribution independent of any possible association with rice field breeding or any particular disease. As stated in the heading of the last column, the references cited are those in which rice field breeding (especially the ecological aspects of rice field breeding) are specifically mentioned. Although the medical importance of a given species may be treated in a particular reference, they are primarily intended to establish the association of that species with rice fields.

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