

MOSQUITO SYSTEMATICS NEWSLETTER

NO. 1

February 1969

Introduction

On the one hand, the world grows smaller because of the increasing ease of communication. On the other hand, it grows ever larger because of the population explosion. The latter phenomenon in turn has resulted in a proliferation of splinter groups, both of nations and of professions. This newsletter is a manifestation of splinter groups at perhaps the lowest demonstrable level. Nonetheless, to those of us involved, the need for rapid communication on matters of mutual interest is perhaps sufficient reason to create yet another splinter group.

Dr. John Belkin first suggested that a loosely-organized confederation of individuals with interests in mosquito systematics might be a desirable situation and that an irregularly-appearing newsletter could provide a service of value to the included individuals. Accordingly, plans for a discussion session on the subject of "Mosquito Systematics" at the next annual meeting of the Entomological Society of America were prepared. This session has now come and gone. Even though the session was conducted in competition with a similar session for Dipterists, the results exceeded expectations.

The session met at the Dallas meetings of the ESA on Wednesday, December 4, 1968 from 7:30 until 10:00 P. M. Thirty individuals, named in an appendix to this document, attended. Since prior experience was lacking on how best to conduct such a session, most of the meeting was devoted to hearing individually from the attendees concerning their current interests and work in mosquito systematics. An extremely interesting information and discussion period resulted from this.

The issuance of a newsletter was briefly discussed and agreement on the desirability of this action seemed rather general. This present effort is an exploration of the sincerity of the expressed interest.

The possibility of holding future sessions at annual meetings was also considered. Based on the interest expressed, it has been arranged to hold a similar event at the upcoming American Mosquito Control Association meeting.

A policy statement will be developed for this publication at a later date after some experience has accumulated. Presently, it is planned to print news notes, notices of new comprehensive publications on mosquitoes and of research projects, short notes of new findings, discussions of controversial questions and other miscellaneous materials. Contributions dealing with these or other subjects related to mosquito systematics are solicited. Items should not be longer than 10 double spaced type-written pages. New taxa will not be included. Any and all suggestions related to this enterprise are also earnestly requested.

Forthcoming Mosquito Systematics Discussion Session

A second mosquito systematics discussion session is scheduled to be held Monday evening, February 24, 1969 from 8:00 to about 10:00 P. M. at the annual meetings of the American Mosquito Control Association. The AMCA is meeting this year at Williamsburg, Virginia, February 24-26, 1969.

Several topics have already been selected for initial description and subsequent discussion. Additionally, it is planned to devote a period of time during which attendees can briefly describe new findings of interest to this group.

Please pass on notice of this meeting to other individuals who might be interested in attending this session.

New Book Notice

The Anophelinae of Africa South of the Sahara (Ethiopian Zoogeographical Region) 2nd Edition by M. T. Gillies and B. DeMeillon. 1968 Publication of the South African Institute for Medical Research. No. 54. 343 pp.

This is a revision of DeMeillon's book "The Anophelini of the Ethiopian Geographical Region" which originally appeared in 1947. The publisher, printer, format and style of this second edition remain the same as do the basic descriptions and illustrations. Systematics, nomenclature and biology have been brought up to date and there is a complete revision of the role of the species in malaria transmission. A chapter on morphology and a set of distribution maps have been added.

Funds and facilities for the completion of this task were provided by the Wellcome Trust; the Regional Office of the World Health Organization, Brazzaville; the Division of Malaria Eradication, WHO Headquarters, Geneva; the Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History); the Director of Office de la Recherche Scientifique et Technique Outre-Mer, Paris; the Director of the Musée Royal de l'Afrique Centrale, Tervuren, Belgium and the Director of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa. Copies of this book are obtainable from:

The Librarian
South African Institute for Medical Research
P. O. Box 1038
Johannesburg
Republic of South Africa

Names and Addresses

The first number of Mosquito Systematics Newsletter will be sent to the North Americans listed below. Those who wish to receive the subsequent 1969 issues are requested to fill out and mail the form printed after the list of names. Mosquito systematists from other continents will be added to the mailing list as their names and addresses are acquired. Any individual desiring to be added to this list should write to the editor or to a member of the Editorial Committee.

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Form for Receiving Newsletter

I would like to receive the Mosquito Systematics Newsletter for 1969.

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