

## Editor's Corner

I have always been intrigued by the career and achievements of Harrison G. Dyar, a lepidopterist and culicidologist of tremendous capacity who in the first half of this century was a leader in the taxonomy of both of these insect groups, and have thought someday to add a detailed biographical sketch of him to the bibliography already issued (*Mosq. Syst.* 6:11-26, 1974). However, I only mention him now because it recently occurred to me that he was of that entomological avant-garde who believed their own particular area of subspecialization sufficiently important to merit its own journal. It is, of course, this same philosophy which led us to the establishment of *Mosquito Systematics*, 57 years after Dyar's initiation of the unique journal, *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus*.

Seeking to determine what parallels might exist between these two efforts, I looked up the prelude and postlude of Dyar's publishing endeavor. *Insect. Inscit. Menst.*, as it is commonly abbreviated, was begun in January 1913 as a privately funded venture of Dyar's. Although devoted rather largely to lepidoptera at the onset, it subsequently had a considerable involvement with mosquito taxonomy. Let us see how it began and ended.

The preface to Vol. 1, No. 1, January, 1913 of *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus* reads as follows: "The title of our publication need not be considered to have any personal application. We endeavor to dispel, to some degree, our general ignorance of the forms of insect life by descriptions of species and genera, life-histories, and other pertinent facts. This publication is undertaken in memory of AUGUSTUS RADCLIFFE GROTE, the best lepidopterist of America, living or dead, whose writings have always been to me a model and an inspiration. In July, 1879, Mr. Grote undertook a small monthly journal. 'The North American Entomologist,' which, however, was discontinued at the end of the first volume. We hope to conduct this on much the same lines. Whether it lasts longer or not remains to be decided. HARRISON G. DYAR."

The postlude appeared in Vol. XIV, Nos. 10-12, p. 151 October-December, 1926, entitled VALEDICTORY and read as follows: "With this issue, *Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus* will cease to appear. We have conducted the magazine through fourteen volumes, and we hope have presented matter of permanent scientific value. Each year there has been a financial deficit, and as year by year the costs of publication have mounted, this deficit has increased in size, although not relatively so, as our subscribers have all been loyal; but this is not the principal reason that has decided us to close. We have published as an individual, without the backing of a permanent society, and sooner or later, every individual life comes to an end. We think better to close the venture while we can do so in an orderly way, rather than to leave behind perhaps an incompleting volume and jumbled accounts.

In our initial number we mentioned the memory of AUGUSTUS RADCLIFFE GROTE. Though many years have passed since he left us, and though his memory must fade, it is still with us the model and the inspiration with which we began this series of volumes. In closing, we wish to thank our subscribers and our contributors, without whose aid our joint undertaking would have failed. HARRISON G. DYAR."