

## BOOK REVIEW

ANOPHELINE NAMES: THEIR DERIVATIONS AND HISTORIES, by James B. Kitzmiller, 1982. The Thomas Say Foundation. Vol. VIII. Entomological Society of America, 4603 Calvert Road, College Park, Maryland 20740, 639 pp., \$16.50 (E. S. A. Members), \$26.50 (Non Members).

The author states that there are 767 names associated with the anophelines. Of these, 322 are patronymics, 268 are classical Latin or Greek derivatives and 177 are place (locality) names. Included in his discussions are all genera, subgenera, species, subspecies, varieties, synonyms and other categories such as *nomina nuda* and discarded names, as listed in Knight and Stone, A Catalog of the Mosquitoes of the World (1977) and the first supplement to this catalog (1978). Some newer names and revisions have also been included.

For each name the author has included the original reference describing the species and the page to refer to in Knight and Stones' "Catalog" or "Supplement."

When the name is a descriptive Latin or Greek term the translation in English is given, followed by a brief discussion of the taxonomic significance of the name. (How many of us were aware that the genus name *Anopheles*, applied by Meigen in 1818, comes from the Greek and, appropriately, means "hurtful" or prejudicial.)

When the taxon is named after a locality, a discussion or a history of the area relevant to the name follows.

The most detailed discussions concerned the patronymics or taxa named after individuals. Of the 322 patronymics, 307 were named after men, only 15 after women. The author notes, however, that despite the inequality here, some of those species named after "XX genotypes" commemorate some of the most interesting of all persons. (He gives an absorbing five page biography of the famous and controversial Clara Ludlow for whom Theobald in 1903 described *Anopheles ludlowae*.) The author also notes that one species was even named for a mother-in-law.

The biographies of the individuals for whom species were named represented, for me, one of the most interesting parts of this fascinating book.

There were also some unusual names which did not fit into any of the above categories. Who would have imagined that *Anopheles apoci* was named by Marsh in 1933 as an acronym of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (A.P.O.C.).

The amount of work and research required to compile a book of this type is staggering to the imagination and as the author notes, required several years to complete. He states that writing the book was a pleasant occupation, that the book is meant for entertainment, and should not be considered a scholarly work. To say that the book is entertaining is an understatement. To say that it is not a scholarly work, is something anyone who reads the book would disagree with. The book is an invaluable reference and would be a treasured addition to the library of anyone interested in the culicids and their history. The distinguished British scientist Professor Leonard Jan Bruce-Chwatt wrote the preface to this book and refers to it as "original, informative, revealing, erudite, comprehensive and wholly delightful and an exceptionally valuable achievement in the rarely creative field of entertaining and profitable knowledge." No one who reads the book will disagree with his evaluation. I have reviewed many scientific publications over the years. None have given me as much pleasure as this one, and I am very grateful to Jim Kitzmiller for sending me an autographed copy to review. Jim stated that his book "undoubtedly contains errors." I wouldn't know about that. I got so engrossed in the content that I forgot to look for them.

Only 500 copies of this book were printed by the Entomological Society of America. I suspect it will quickly be out of print.

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