EDITORS CORNER

It gives us great pleasure to honor Dr. John A. Reid in this issue. This distinguished British scientist has had a long and most productive career as a mosquito taxonomist and medical entomologist. His accomplishments, however, have not been restricted to mosquitoes, as one can note from his list of publications.

His major contributions have been on the taxonomy of anopheline mosquitoes and in 1986 he received the AMCA Belkin award for his work in mosquito systematics.

I would like to reprint a portion of a letter written by Dr. Bruce A. Harrison, Manager of the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit, in which he nominated Dr. Reid as a recipient of the Belkin Award.

"Without question, I believe that John Reid can claim the title of being the father of modern *Anopheles* taxonomy for the Oriental Region and particularly the Southeast Asian sub-region. He first arrived in the area in 1937-1938 as a researcher at the Institute of Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur, Malaya. He remained at this post for almost 30 years, working on malaria, filariasis, anopheline biology and primarily anopheline taxonomy. This work was interrupted only once, when he was interned by the Japanese during World War II for several years in the famous 'Changi' prison camp and later in several camps along the notorious River Khwai in western Thailand.

During the period, 1938-1982, John published 47 (by my count) papers or books on mosquitoes, with most of these being taxonomic efforts. His most famous effort is a true classic, the 'Anopheline Mosquitoes of Malaya and Borneo,' which is a 520 page tome published in 1968, and represents 'the bible' for those of us who have worked on anophelines in Asia. He discovered 13 new species of *Anopheles* and described 12 of these, only refusing to describe the one because of limited material. In 1973, when more specimens became available, I described that species and named it *reidi* in honor of his efforts.

Even in his earliest mosquito paper (1942), John was an astute observer of morphological variations and their correlation with behavioral - biological differences. When he became aware of Mayr (1942) and the modern biological species concept he quickly became a proponent of this concept, and thereafter worked on species as groups of variable populations. This approach led to his reliance on reared specimens with associated immature skins for taxonomic study, and led to his discovery of a myriad of valuable characters on the pupae and larvae of *Anopheles*. His heavy reliance on pupal characters began before 1950 and was one of the major factors leading to his discovery of numerous sibling species affiliated with *Anopheles hyrcanus, barbirostris, umbrosus, asiaticus* and *aitkenii*. He very capably sorted out these sibling species and assembled them into the species groups that we know today by the above names. In addition, his knowledge of malaria and filariasis and his biological observations led to his sorting out which of the sibling species in each group were important vectors.

Beside the above accomplishments, John Reid can be credited with: (1) elevation to species level - *An. (Cel.) indefinitus, An. (Cel.) nivipes, An. (Ano.) indiensis, An. (Ano.) peditaeniatus* and *An. (Ano.) pursati*; (2) extensive work on the relative attractiveness of man vs. bovids to *Anopheles* species (anthropophilic indices); (3) elucidation of the role of the *An. umbrosus* group members in the transmission of mousedeer malaria *P. traguli*, instead of human malaria as previously described; (4) extensive work on anopheline vectors of *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi*; (5) being one of the first taxonomists to regularly present chaetotaxy tables for larvae and pupae in his papers; (6) the discovery of the vector *(An. campestris)* of rice field malaria in Malaysia, and the behavioral differences of this species from *An. barbirostris* (non-vector in Malaysia) which allowed its nearly complete control and the subsequent near elimination of malaria in the rice field areas of Peninsular Malaysia; and (7) a reclassification of the subgenus *Anopheles* (with Ken Knight) and an ordering of this subgenus into more manageable categories and groups."