

PREFACE

Imponere nova rebus nomina...

Marcus Tullius Cicero
Letters

Few requests have given me more satisfaction than that of the author of this book suggesting that I should write a preface for it. The pleasure was not only because this would give me the opportunity to express my admiration of Jim Kitzmiller's rare blend of scientific accomplishments combined with his classical culture; some of my enthusiastic response was due to personal reasons. The proposal evoked many memories of my own initiation into the mysteries of mosquito systematics and the nomenclatorial subtleties of African anophelines, when during the 1940's, as a young and green military malariologist, I had to organise or coordinate a number of malaria control schemes for the protection of British, American and other Army or Air Force units in various parts of West Africa.

Although fully involved in practical application of then available control measures, to reduce as much as possible the man-mosquito-man chain of transmission of the infection, I became fascinated by the entomological component of my activities. In this field of study, then new to me, Peter Mattingly's guidance is well remembered. Dr. Alwen M. Evans' book *Mosquitoes of the Ethiopian Region; II Anophelini, Adults and Early Stages* (1938) became my bible; it may be appropriate to pay here my tribute to the memory of this remarkable lady, then in charge of the Entomology Department at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

Our Army unit (No 7 Field Malaria Laboratory, Royal Army Medical Corps) was situated in an old house oddly named "Aurora Borealis", at the periphery of Lagos, Nigeria and I spent many hours on identification of *Anopheles* brought from the field; the thrill of finding an uncommon species was the main intellectual reward. I could not help being fascinated by their specific names: some starkly evocative if not sinister (*An. funestus*), others unpretentiously descriptive (*An. flavicosta*, *An. squamosus*), wonderfully impressive (*An. pharoensis*, *An. cinetus*) pastoral-Arcadian (*An. domicolus*, *An. paludis*, *An. rivulorum*), ambiguous or funny (*An. maculipalpis*, *An. implexus*), many others geographically and wrongfully assigned (*An. arabiensis*, *An. gambiae*, *An. freetownensis*, *An. rhodesiensis*). But particularly enigmatic and exciting were the eponymous ones, named after people one knew little or nothing about.