

M2/181/33

26 April 1963

Dear Dr de Meillon  
Dr Mattingly

Re: Taxonomy of the A. gambiae complex

... The attached copies of recent correspondence between the Division of Malaria Eradication, Mr Paterson, and Mr Davidson all help to emphasize the need for some joint action or policy decision with regard to the nomenclature of this group. In view of the fact that new information about the relations between the members of this group is continuously coming to light, and that further work in the next year or two may call for a revision of ideas about this relationship, the present phase would appear to be a most unsuitable time for individual workers to put forward new specific or sub-specific names independently.

While not wishing in any way to curb or restrict the rights of research workers to give free voice to their own findings and opinions, the case in point is one in which so many interests are concerned - malaria eradication in particular - that all efforts are called for to avoid confusion, dissension or disharmony.

We would therefore be very grateful if you could find time during your visit to Headquarters - and outside your commitments to VC - to discuss this matter with us in the Division of Malaria Eradication. The main object of this preliminary discussion will be to see whether it is feasible to formulate some line of action whereby all future decisions about the nomenclature of taxonomy of the A. gambiae complex should be made on a joint basis with all the workers concerned participating.

Although there may well be difficulties in the way of implementing this suggestion, there would clearly be great advantages if the taxonomic implications of this continuing research work could be reviewed from time to time by a select group whose rulings could be regarded as authoritative and decisive.

Yours sincerely,

Dr P. F. Mattingly  
Dr B. de Meillon  
Care of Vector Control Unit

R. C. Muirhead-Thomson, D.Sc.  
Division of Malaria Eradication

... ENCL: copies of 6 letters

cc: Mr Davidson, Mr Wright