

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF RHODESIA AND NYASALAND

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8th February, 1965.

Mr. G. Davidson,
Ross Institute,
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine,
Keppel Street,
LONDON, W.C.1.

Dear Mr. Davidson,

Thank you very much for your recent letter and for a copy of your latest report. I shall reciprocate as soon as mine is complete. At the moment the report is held up so that I can include the latest work from Chirundu.

When I received your letter I wrote to Dr. D.H.S. Davis, Medical Ecology Centre, P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg, and asked him whether he would allow the SAIMR map unit (which he directs) to undertake mapping of the "gambiae" forms. I suggested that we could feed information to the unit as it comes in and that it should be mapped at once and recorded. Once or twice a year he should send WHO a list of localities which gives full details such as latitude and longitude and quote the Authority for the record. WHO could circulate interested people. Wherever a map is needed for a publication a letter to Davis will elicit a copy of the map.

He is very willing to do this but states that a formal request should be made to Dr. J.H.S. Gear, Director of the S.A. Institute for Medical Research, P.O. Box 1038, Johannesburg. I suggest we ask WHO to do this and to offer to cover running expenses which will be quite low.

Should you wish to get some information on the system used you could look it up in a book:

de Meillon, Davis and Hardy (1961).
Plague in S. Africa Vol. 1. The
Siphonaptera.

This should be in your library. On pp. 21 and 22 the system is

explained. He has made good progress towards having this method accepted for all mammal distribution maps in Africa, and it would be a good thing to extend this to other groups. Would you, if you approve, contact WHO and suggest that the SAIMR be asked to do this?

Davis did make a stipulation that all records supplied must give: country, village, locus (latitude and longitude) and, if published, full reference. Perhaps we should add to this: "method of identification". We could have say 3 categories here: genetical identification, morphological and physiological. Some records from the literature could be included under the latter 2 categories for melas and merus.

Yes, I have known of Marchal's paper for some years. The thing that worried me about it is that it does not give a good survey of natural variation within the 2 forms, and it does not include a study of lab. hybrids. Of course we are now in a better position to do this. I feel that now a study of this sort should include (a) a search for aberrant larvae which (b) should then be examined for evidence of hybridity by examining the chromosomes. (Could not Garnet do this while in W. Africa?)

I shall let you have my report for your chapter almost at once.

Another point about the mapping. I don't think we can get the distributions mapped by Davis in time for publication in your chapter unless we send him full details as to latitudes and longitudes at once. I have already sent him the details I have, but cannot give him details of the small localities in West Africa. If you could send him latitudes and longitudes for all small villages in West Africa almost at once, he says he can complete the maps very quickly and send them to you by air mail. The WHO negotiations with Gear can come later.

If this can't be managed, I should use your maps. One point about these: I notice at Uzumba you have recorded A, B and C - is this correct? I think I have only heard of your records of A and C there.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Hugh Paterson
H.E. PATERSON.