

22nd July, 1964.

H.E. Paterson Esq.,
Private Bag 167 H,
SALISBURY,
Southern Rhodesia.

Dear Mr. Paterson,

Thank you for your letter of June 16th and for your willingness to co-operate in writing a chapter on the A. gambiae complex for the proposed WHO Monograph.

I think the end of August or the beginning of September will be soon enough to start compiling data. I would be grateful for any photographs you can spare. Rest assured they will be fully acknowledged. Mason will certainly have chromosome photographs but if you think yours will help perhaps you could compare notes with Mason when you meet in Rome. Mason is scheduled to give a paper on chromosomal differences between the A and B forms.

You certainly do not have evidence of hybridization in the Chirundu area. Coz's findings this year are completely negative too - 366 males normal from 24 families - and this in an area where A and B forms are thoroughly mixed and in the same area where he found significant numbers of sterile males in the previous year. This is inexplicable. I think perhaps you might see Coz in Rome - if not you will certainly see Hamon. They are convinced that hybridization occurs not only between A and B but also between melas and A.

Thank you for the additional distribution records. I agree we will have to distinguish between circumstantial and direct records. My reference to melas from the Congo (Leopoldville) did not mean it came from Leo - I think this is your record from the coast near Matadi. Congo (Leopoldville)

was given to distinguish the former Belgian territory from the French Congo.

I enclose the paper I gave at the Entomology Congress and, in addition, 4 tables I projected as slides. It aroused some interest though discussion time was very limited, as always at Congresses.

I wish you luck in Rome.

Yours sincerely,

G. Davidson
Reader in Entomology as
Applied to Malaria.

P.S. We have just been typing A. gambiae eggs from the vicinity of Tananarive, Madagascar, sent to us by Chauvet before the directive from WHO "partitioned Africa between you and me". 10 of 19 individual egg-layings were compatible with B, 8 were incompatible with A or merus or both and one was incompatible with A, B and merus. It could, therefore, be C or a new form. Unfortunately, we did not keep colonies of all 19 families and most unfortunately not this one. Which brings me to the point of our dire need for C. Is there any hope of you sending us some? I heard from Mick Gillies that you were having difficulties. I hope you soon overcome them.