

2nd February, 1968.

H. Paterson, Esq.,
Department of Zoology,
University of Western Australia,
Nedlands,
Perth, W. Australia.

Dear Mr. Paterson,

Since your letter arrived last August I have either been on holiday or doing my grand tour of Africa. I left here at the beginning of October and returned just before Christmas and I've been writing reports ever since. I thoroughly enjoyed a chance to get back to the "field" and visited Upper Volta, Nigeria, Fernando Poo, Angola, Moçambique, Rhodesia, Madagascar, Zanzibar and Sudan. I had exactly 2 days in Rhodesia but managed to visit Chiredzi where Green and Barnish kindly showed me round. I was fascinated by Hippo Pool and the species C breeding places. I found Green very enthusiastic and made various suggestions for lines of work. Before I left London we managed to get some larvae from his breeding places via a Shell man coming home. We raised a colony, proved it to be species C and kept it for 4 months but only by artificial mating. Now we have lost it again.

You may not have heard of the latest development in the A. gambiae complex situation. Coluzzi can now definitely tell A from B by the X-chromosome and can also distinguish melas and merus by the X-chromosome and autosomes. I tested him on 14 of our colonies (A, B, melas and merus) and he got them all right. Now, of course, we are itching to adopt this cytogenetic technique. It will take a much shorter time and much less trouble than our present crossing technique.

Thank you for your corrections to my distribution list of the member species of the A. gambiae complex. There are still some queries, however. Perhaps you can help or perhaps they were not done by you. Anyway here they are:-

1. From the Sinyati Reserve identifications of A and B were made from one wild female and a sample of larvae - which gave A and which gave B?

2. Where was the material identified as B from Magul collected - in houses?

3. On what dates was the material, identified as species C, collected from Uzumba Reserve (animal-biting outdoors), Chipinda Pools (man-biting outdoors = MBO), Sabi/Lundi Junction (MBO) and Hippo Valley Estates (MBO).

4. On what dates was the material collected from the following places in Swaziland:-

	(OWT)		
Big Bend	(OSN)	.....	<u>merus</u>
	(ABO)		
Big Bend	OWT	.....	B
Mzimpofo	L	.....	C
Belegane	L	.....	C
Sipofanene	L	.....	C

5. From what sort of collection and on what dates were A. merus identified from Ndumu and Lucia in Natal?

6. From what sort of collection and on what dates were merus and C identified from females caught biting man outdoors in Foz do Incomati?

For dates I only require the month and year.

Garnet Mason has now left us for University College's Department of Animal Genetics. I haven't had the time to go and see him as yet but hope to soon. We have now taken on Dr. J.A. Reid ex British Museum and ex Institute for Medical Research, Malaya, on a part-time basis for a period of two years to work on the systematics of the A. gambiae complex. This is in no way a replacement for Garnet, however.

I enclose our current biannual report. I hope you are still interested. I hope all goes well with you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

G. Davidson, D.Sc.
Reader in Entomology
as applied to Malaria.