

THE 1986 MEMORIAL LECTURE HONOREE

MARSTON BATES, 1906-1974

Professor Bates was an excellent researcher but, more importantly, a superlative writer who said "scientists can and ought to write in a way capable of reaching a wide and influential audience." This is certainly the case for his book "The Natural History of Mosquitoes" which was published in 1949. This book is a must for all students of tropical medicine as it is a factual review of present-day knowledge that includes life cycles, distribution and even a section on fossil mosquitoes. One reviewer stated that it is written in a lucid, easygoing style which is all too rare in such works.

Professor Marston Bates was born July 23, 1906 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The family soon moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL, where he attended local public schools. He majored in biology at the University of Florida where he graduated in 1927. He then became a research assistant with the United Fruit Company in Honduras and Guatemala in 1928 but returned to Harvard in 1931 to continue his

studies in zoology, obtaining his M.A. degree in 1933 and his Ph.D. in 1934. He became a research assistant at the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology in 1935 but soon was given a leave of absence to join a Rockefeller project to investigate mosquito biology in Albania. He resigned from the museum staff in 1937 to join the staff of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. Then in 1939 he was sent to Egypt to set up a laboratory for malaria research. With the advent of World War II, the project was abandoned and he was transferred by the Rockefeller Foundation to Villavicencio, Colombia, to direct a laboratory for yellow fever research. There he and his research team were able to identify the *Haemagogus* mosquito as the vector of yellow fever in Colombia. He returned to the U.S. in 1948 and in 1952 became a Professor of Zoology at the University of Michigan.