

BOOK REVIEW

MOSQUITO ECOLOGY: FIELD SAMPLING METHODS.
By M. W. Service. Applied Sciences Publishers
Ltd., London. 1976. 583 pp. £30.00.

For more than 25 years Dr. Service has been a productive investigator of mosquito bionomics, and he is extremely well qualified to collate information on techniques used in collecting and observing mosquitoes in the field. The initial impression that the book makes is that there is an astonishing quantity of material. It is common knowledge that even mediocre research, with largely negative results, often spawns methodology. Sometimes the methodology is virtually the only worthwhile product of much work.

The task of sifting through thousands of papers was a formidable one. Certainly the coverage must be complete; errors of omission are hard to find. The author has surveyed, analyzed, and evaluated the various techniques in a most admirable fashion. Titles of the first 7 chapters begin with "Sampling," and there are explanations of how to sample the following: the egg population, the larval population, the adult resting population, adults with non-attractant traps, adults by animal bait catches and by animal-baited traps, adults with carbon dioxide traps, light traps, visual attraction traps, and sound traps, and the emerging adult population. Four additional chapters

deal with experimental hut techniques for evaluating insecticides, mark-recapture techniques and adult dispersal, estimation of the mortalities of the immature stages and adults, and indices of association between species and species diversity. The longest chapters are those concerned with sampling larval populations, with sampling adults using animals as bait, and with sampling adults using carbon dioxide, light, or sound. The chapter concerning estimation of mortality is also a long one, and here the reader is informed of some sophisticated studies involving the construction of life tables and many other aspects of population dynamics. This is a field in which the author has made many original contributions. The last 3 chapters will be of compelling interest to statistically oriented researchers. In other chapters culicidologists who are less theoretically minded will be intrigued with details of many gadgets. Anyone contemplating inventing a sampling device should consult Service's book first.

The comprehensive description and evaluation (often critical) of the vast number of techniques which have been reported should indicate that a vast amount of research has resulted. Perhaps there is a correlation between perfection of methodology and accomplishment. At any rate, those planning research will find that this book will be of great value.—W. E. Bickley

AMCA MEETINGS

March 27-30, 1977
April 17-21, 1978
April 8-11, 1979
April 13-16, 1980

New Orleans, LA
Chicago, IL
Washington, DC
Salt Lake City, UT

Marriott Hotel
Pick-Congress Hotel
Statler-Hilton Hotel
Hotel Utah

In 1981 the meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas, and in 1982 the meeting will be in Sacramento, California.