

ANNOUNCEMENT

Medical Entomology and Mosquito Identification
at the U. S. National Museum

The Medical Entomology Project (MEP) was initiated on 1 June 1974, as a Smithsonian Institution project under the auspices of a contract from the U. S. Army Medical Research and Development Command. MEP officially replaces SEAMP (Southeast Asia Mosquito Project), which had been a Smithsonian Institution project with similar financing for a number of years. The Medical Entomology project will occupy the same facilities as SEAMP in the Department of Entomology, Smithsonian Institution, and its staff will be essentially the same as SEAMP with the addition of consultants who are specialists in arthropod groups for which no MEP resident staff members are available. Dr. Ronald A. Ward was named as Project Manager.

The staff of the Medical Entomology Project will continue its research interests on the Oriental mosquito fauna for which SEAMP has been well known; there are several studies in progress which should be completed within the next two years. In addition, collaborative studies with British and African workers on mosquitoes of Africa will be undertaken, and collaborative taxonomic research on mosquitoes in other areas of the world will be initiated. The goal of MEP is to develop a highly competent team of resident taxonomists and consultants who will conduct biosystematic research and provide identification keys, summaries of information on potential vectors, and monographic revisions of medically important arthropod groups.

Equally significant to the progress of mosquito systematics is the recent arrangement which has been made between MEP, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Systematic Entomology Laboratory of the USDA to assume responsibility for curating the national collection of mosquitoes and providing research and identification services on mosquitoes previously undertaken by the Systematic Entomology Laboratory. In undertaking this responsibility MEP fills the gap in providing mosquito identification services which was created by the retirement from USDA of Dr. Alan Stone in 1972.

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Stone's position has been assumed by Dr. F. Christian Thompson, who has recently joined the scientific staff of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA. Dr. Thompson will provide research and identification services in all of the insect groups previously held by Dr. Stone with the exception of the mosquitoes. In addition, Dr. Thompson will undertake the responsibility for several Diptera families more closely associated with the biological control efforts of the entomological community.

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