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COMMENTS ON APPENDIX I OF PAPER - "PRELIMINARY APPRAISAL OF THE USE OF
AGE-GROUPING METHODS IN ANOPHELINE MOSQUITOS" WHO/Mal/264 OF 9 MAY 1960

With reference to the summary of the Russian paper by Zalutskaya, annexed to WHO/Mal/264 (page 15), our attention has been called to a few taxonomic points which justify some editorial comments:¹

1. The original paper of Zalutskaya quotes A. maculipalpis as one of the thirteen species previously found in Viet Nam. It is probable that the author had in view A. splendidus Koizumi, which was previously described as A. indiensis Theobald 1903 (Nyssorhynchus maculipalpis var.) according to Stone, Knight & Starcke's "Synoptic catalogue of the mosquitos of the world" (1959). The true A. maculipalpis Giles is an African species (de Meillon, 1947; Stone, Knight & Starcke, 1959).
2. It is possible that A. hyrcanus sinensis should now be listed as a valid species A. sinensis Wied. (Stone, Knight & Starcke, 1959). It is true, however, that in some areas of the world entomologists currently refer to A. hyrcanus nigerrimus, to A. hyrcanus sinensis and to the A. hyrcanus group. The retained use of the trinomial in these cases has some advantage, since the taxonomists are not yet in complete concordance about the group; Reid, for instance, considers that A. venhuisi of Indonesia is in reality A. hyrcanus nigerrimus, and that what Venhuis described as A. hyrcanus nigerrimus was in fact A. peditaeniatus.
3. The problem of the identity of A. fuliginosus Giles is still debatable in some quarters. Stone, Knight & Starcke (1959) list A. fuliginosus Giles as a synonym of A. annularis van der Wulp 1884.

¹ The Editor thanks Mr E. I. Coher and Dr R. C. Muirhead-Thomson for their comments.

It should be emphasized that Appendix I to WHO/Mal/264 simply quoted the content of the paper by Zalutskaya, and that there was no intention of reviewing it. The list of species in this summary was incidental to the much more pertinent information about age-grouping of A. minimus and A. vagus; but it has clearly distracted the attention of some of the more taxonomically-minded readers from the main theme of the document.

REFERENCES

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