

# A NEW SOUTH AFRICAN ANOPHELINE

BY

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## A New South African Anopheline.

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### PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION.

#### *Anopheles listeri*, Sp. nov.

While collecting in the Northern Transvaal in November, 1930, some larvæ were taken which somewhat resembled those of *Anopheles gambiae*. It was noted, however, that the larvæ belonged to a hitherto unknown species from South Africa. In December, 1930, the same species was again encountered, this time in large numbers, in the Tugela Valley, Natal. The opportunity of rearing larvæ to maturity then presented itself.

The adult female insect is very easily separable from all other South African anophelines in having the apices of the palpi dark. In this respect it resembles *A. flaviceps* Edws., from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. Dr. Edwards, of the British Museum, however, kindly compared this new species with *A. flaviceps*, and declared them to be quite distinct. The present species differs from *flaviceps* in having much shorter palpi and in the wing markings.

The insect is named in honour of Sir Spencer Lister, the Director of the South African Institute for Medical Research, Johannesburg.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPE FEMALE.

A medium-sized mosquito, greyish in colour, and not unlike *A. gambiae* in general appearance, except that the legs are unspeckled and the apices of the palps dark.

*Head*: Palps with three narrow pale bands at the joints of segments two, three, four and five. The distal pale band does not include the tip of the palps, about one-half of the fifth palpal segment being pale. Palps not shaggy.

*Thorax*: Clothed with narrow yellowish scales somewhat like those of *A. gambiæ* in colour and shape.

*Legs*: All dark, with narrow faint yellowish spots at the apices of the femora and tibiæ of all legs.

*Wing*: The pale areas predominate, giving the wing a yellowish appearance to the naked eye. Base of the costa dark, followed by five yellowish areas. The two pale costal spots, distal to the termination of the subcosta, are so lengthened that the dark spot intervening between them is shorter than either of them. The apical margin of the wing is pale, except for a small dark spot between veins 2.1 and 2.2, from just above the termination of vein 1 to just below the termination of vein 3. Second vein mostly pale; two dark areas on the stem of the fork; two indefinite dark areas on the upper branch and two dark areas on the lower branch. Third vein mostly pale with a dark area near the base and one towards the apex. Fourth vein mostly pale; stem of the fork cell with a dark area at the base and one at the base of the fork cell; upper branch with two and lower with one dark area. Fifth vein mostly pale; a dark spot near the base; three dark areas on the upper and one on the lower branch of the fork cell. Sixth vein mostly pale with three small dark areas. Pale spots on the fringe of the wing opposite all veins except the sixth.

*Abdomen*: Dorsum of the abdomen clothed with yellowish hairs.

*Type Locality*.—M'singa, Natal, South Africa.

*Distribution*.—Dorstig, Zoutpansberg (Coll. B. de M.); Nondweni, Letaba (Coll. N. H. Swellengrebel); M'singa, Natal (Coll. B. de M.).

*Type* to be placed in the collection of the British Museum, London.

*Habitat*.—The larvæ, of which a description has

appeared in No. XXVIII of the Publications of the South African Institute for Medical Research, were found in open exposed pools in stream beds in company with those of *A. pretoriensis* and *A. gambica*.

According to the pleural hairs of the larva, the adult insect is a member of the *Celia* and *Neocelia* groups of the subgenus *Myzomyia*.