

DR. CHARLES H. T. TOWNSEND  
FAZENDA CASAGRANDE VELHA  
ITAQUAQUECETUBA  
(VIA POÁ, E. F. C. B.)  
SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Answered  
about 1892

March 15, 1922

Dear Doctor Lutz:-

I have recently completed my Manual of Muscoid Flies of the World and have sent it in for publication. My contract with the State of São Paulo ends this month and I shall not renew. There are several openings for me in view in Africa, North America and elsewhere. But I would like to work on the muscoid fauna of the interior of this country, which is the richest in the world. Can I get any financial help in this undertaking from the Inspectoria das Obras contra as Seccas?

I note that Dr. Neiva, in the report of his 1912 trip through the interior, strongly recommended the thorough investigation of the fauna and flora of that region. Is anything being done in this matter?

I would like to start in May on a trip through Goyaz for about four months, collecting all the muscoid material possible to secure and making dissections of reproductive systems of new types from fresh material in the field. On my return from the trip I would work the material up here at my place, where I have the literature, send manuscript for publication wherever desired and place the named material, types and all, in the Federal National Museum in Rio.

As you know, it is necessary, in order to collect muscoid flies successfully, take proper care of the material, make the desired dissections in the field, that the muscoid specialist himself must take the field for this work as well as determine the material later. A general collector will bring back only a small percentage of the muscoid fauna, and what he does secure will be badly preserved, while no dissections can be made by him.

It would be advantageous, however, to send one or more general or special collectors along to take care of all other material possible to secure. In this way the country traversed can be more thoroughly investigated as to all the members of the fauna and flora, with little additional expense. Perhaps the best way of travel after leaving the end of the railway will be by oxcart, with camp outfit.

Would not the Instituto Oswaldo Cruz take this matter up, either independently or in co-operation with the Inspectoria das Obras contra as Seccas? I would do this work for a moderate salary, and expenses while in the field.

Will you do me the favor to present my respects to Dr. Chagas and lay this matter before him for me? The muscoid flies are of both great economic importance and high scientific interest, and the Brazilian fauna is the richest in the world. Can not some branch of the Federal Government of Brazil commission me to work on them?

The Museu Paulista would gladly begin this work but is without funds to undertake it. Besides, the Museu Paulista is a State institution, while the Federal Government is the proper agent to do this work, since the fauna pertains to the whole Republic - Goyaz, Matto Grosso, Amazonas, etc. I am here on the ground and wish to do this work. Moreover, as you know, there is no one else so well qualified as myself to undertake it. The National Museum in Rio should be interested.

I would be glad to have Dr. Neiva see this letter also, but do not know where to reach him. I would be most glad to have his co-operation in this matter, as well as his company on such trips, should he care to go in the field again.

Most sincerely yours,

Charles H. Townsend

Dr. Adelpho Lutz,  
Instituto Oswaldo Cruz

(over)

P.S. I am saving some specimens for you of a greenish tabanid that appears only for 10 or 15 minutes during the 24 hours, on horses, this being <sup>during</sup> the short period of half light preceding nightfall. Only when the light has well waned do they appear, there not being enough light to see them distinctly, and they have disappeared again as soon as darkness arrives. Do you know of this habit? I have verified it repeatedly here on my fozzards.

W.S.

Charles D. D. D. D.