Preface to the Second Edition

The first edition of this book (Becker et al. 2003) included comprehensive and globally relevant chapters on Mosquito Systematics, Biology, Morphology, Medical Importance, Research Techniques, and Control. However, the identification keys and descriptions were limited to European mosquito species. Nonetheless, the reviews (Olejniczek and Gelbic 2004) and the rapid sale of the first edition, indicated that the book was widely appreciated and accepted by both scientists and professionals.

Having had time to reflect on the first edition, the authors realised the need for a second edition and agreed that the scope required widening to include an overview of selected important vector and nuisance mosquito species world-wide. This 2nd edition is intended to be useful not only to readers in Europe, but to readers around the world.

The additional list of mosquito species we chose to include, was compiled using our own knowledge and experience, and that of our colleagues in various regions, and of course utilising the very extensive literature.

Despite the natural division of the mosquito fauna of the world into zoo-geographical regions, in our work we have adopted a continental approach. This allows us to present a simpler overview of the current situation, and to provide an understanding of the global distribution of important nuisance and disease vector mosquitoes, irrespective of the science of zoo-geography.

Given that the tribe Aedini is the largest and most polyphyletic group of mosquitoes, we therefore agree with the work of Reinert (2000c) and Reinert et al. (2004, 2006, 2008), in revising it and establishing monophyletic genera. We believe that progress should be made towards establishing genera as “monophyletic” or natural groups of species; that is to say groups including an ancestor and all of its descendents.

However, several groups of mosquito taxonomists and editors of major professional journals have not accepted the latest nomenclature proposed by Reinert et al. (2004, 2006, 2008), and have even returned *Ochlerotatus* (Reinert 2000c) to the sub-generic rank after several years of extensive usage.

As a compromise, the placement of genera within the tribe Aedini in this edition, is based on “traditional” generic and sub-generic affiliations recognised prior to and including the separation of *Aedes* and *Ochlerotatus* by Reinert (2000c). In this text, the “latest” placement of genera proposed by Reinert et al. (2004, 2006, 2008) is indicated in square brackets following the “traditional” generic names. Those who would prefer to follow the nomenclature before Reinert (2000c) can treat the name
Ochlerotatus as equivalent to Aedes. Finally, for those species whose status did not change after Reinert (2000c), we have not provided additional information.

We have restructured and broadened chapters such as “Mosquito Research Techniques” and “Medical Importance”, to make this text more useful to our colleagues working outside Europe.

In general, we sincerely hope that we have produced a text that will be useful and interesting to entomologists in general, and particularly to professionals in public health battling the scourges of mosquito nuisance and mosquito-borne diseases.

The authors
Mosquitoes and Their Control
2010, XXX, 577 p., Hardcover
ISBN: 978-3-540-92873-7