



## THE VISITORS OF THE DEAD:

### *THE ROLE OF ENTOMOLOGY IN FORENSIC PRACTICE*

For most people, old and young, and particularly the latter, insects/arthropods cannot be anything but unwanted friends who often complicate their lives by causing physical harm to their skin and leading to illnesses such as malaria. For adults who are more enlightened, they may appreciate the benefits that insects can bring to man. For example, insects pollinate flowers and give rise to the development of fruits such as pawpaw. Some insects such as bees, give rise to honey. In these examples and several others, the insects are either harmful or beneficial visitors to man in the living state and his environment.

However, when insects visit man after death, it is for good. They assist the dead body to decompose particularly when the body is lying free on the surface of the earth where decomposition would have normally taken much longer to occur. But beyond that, the visit of insects to a dead body can become a useful tool in Forensic practice. The type of insects that visit the body and the order in which they do so, the time it takes them to dissect the body can assist the forensic practitioner to estimate time since death. Time since death is one of the parameters that the

# A Gift to Professor M.C. Dike: What Should He be Remembered for?

**Professor M.C. Dike: A Giant Entomologist Is Lost!**

**The Lost of a Gem among Beneficial Insects!**

**This tribute is written in loving memory of Professor Mike Dike**

Nigeria lost a great Entomologist, Professor Dike. I knew him since 2009 when he was saddled with the responsibility of paddling ESN to the promise land as the president of the association. Death is a robber, and as the Holy Bible says, "If the head of a household knew what time the robber would break his house, he would never allow him to accomplish his mission". Certainly had there been anything we could do to prevent Professor Dike's death, we would have done just that. The biting pangs of death caused by motor accidents last year have claimed one of our most renowned Entomologists, Professor M.C Dike. He is said to have died in a car accident in Suleja on his way to Abuja. Certainly, one of the few things that mortals have yet failed to unravel is death and how, when and where it comes. But more painful reality is that death is a destiny for us all, and we can only pray that the good Lord rests his soul in eternal peace. To the widow, children, relatives and friends, please receive my most sincere commiserations during this difficult moment. Be comforted by the fact that the life Professor Dike has gone to is the very magnificent one. Let's continue to pray for Professor Dike's safe rest in eternity. Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them. Professor Dike is dead but his unprecedented and unparallel impact in the life of people, his students and Entomological Society of Nigeria (ESN) lingers forever. For us living, the loss of Dike was a shock that we have continued to make do with till our death come knocking. As character had it, he was born in humility, he lived a life of service, died on the line of duty and was buried victoriously - reminiscent of how great kings cherished and loved by their people are sent off. For M.C. Dike, it was a life well spent. May God forgive his sins and reward him with everlasting peace. Adieu Dike, till we meet to part no more. In spite of his teaching schedule, Professor Dike acted in various capacities in the upliftment of ESN. He was the editor-in-chief for several years and the president of the society for two terms. As a president of ESN, he was able to single-handedly attract fund from ETF to the society. His immense contribution in the

society is immeasurable and incomparable. There was hardly ESN initiative that took place without Professor Dike's unique presence, inspirational ideas, support, humour and insightful political views. Truly he was a fine person, with a finer mission and the finest vision for ESN. However, it is no exaggeration to state that Professor Dike was a pivot around whom a lot of ESN entities and activities were organized and perfected. His landmark and sense of organization will forever be remembered. You could always rely on Professor Dike to draw our attention to the most significant aspects of the ESN event in Nigeria - just as you could rely on him to provide guidance and encouragement during hard times. It was quite surprising and remained mystery to us how he managed to combine all of these with his role as a lecturer in ABU Zaria. Every man dies, not every man really lives. Professor Dike lived, made an impactful remark and passed on. The legacy left by him will continue to be a point of reference. His wealth of knowledge of insects' taxonomy was **unparallel**. He was a jewel of unparallel and unquantifiable worth. 'A man who won't die for something is not fit to live'. Throughout his life, he spoke for the voiceless and the aided the oppressed among his students but he never tolerated mediocrity. He will forever be remembered, forever missed. His memory will reside forever in our hearts. His departure leaves a massive vacuum in all our lives. We all need to grieve the loss of this giant Entomologist. May his gentle soul, rest in perfect peace, amen. I feel it is a lot too early to bestow the title of "the late" on Dike as his inspirational activities at ESN still ring bells of freshness in our minds.

#### **Professor Dike**

To hear about him was to thirst to see him

To meet him was to respect him  
To know him was to love him

To entrust him was to be rest assured and go to sleep

To give him responsibility was to see him delivering

To work with him was to admire him

To believe him was to encourage him

**Dr. Aderolu, I.A.**

# ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA



Website: [www.esn.org.ng](http://www.esn.org.ng)

## **COMMUNIQUE OF THE 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA FROM 7-10 OCTOBER, 2014**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Entomological Society of Nigeria held at Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Abuja, Abuja FCT on the theme "Insect Resurgence: Implication for Agriculture, Health and Sustainable Environment.

Keynote address on the theme was given by Professor Hayward Babale Mafuyai, the Vice-Chancellor, University of Jos after the Conference was declared open by Professor M. U. Adikwu, the Vice Chancellor, University of Abuja. The Conference also attracted other dignitaries such as the Minister of National Planning - Dr. Abubakar Olanrewaju Suleiman; Dr. Chioma Amajo - Chief Executive Officer, Community Vision Initiative and Alhaji Abubakar Haruna Tanko - the Conservator General, Nigeria National Park.

Two hundred and forty (240) participants from within and outside the country including scientists from the Academia, Research Institutes and industries attended the conference in which a total of 173 scientific papers were delivered.

### **Three symposia papers were presented namely:**

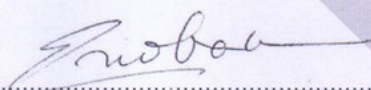
- a. Integrated Vector Management: The Strategy for Vector Control in Public Health
- b. An Emerging Trend for Insect Pest Management in Nigeria
- c. The Role of Insects in Heritability Conservation in the Nigeria National Park

### **The Conference highlighted the following challenges:**

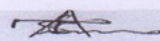
- i. Insecticide usage treadmill birthed by indiscriminate, non judicious usage of pesticides with consequent adverse impact on non-target beneficial organisms.
- ii. Weak pedestal to grow synergy of management of pests of agricultural and public health importance.
- iii. Inadequate funding of research on the management of pests of agricultural and public health importance.

**The following resolutions were reached at the end of the deliberations:**

1. Pest resurgence is a complex phenomenon and there is paucity of coherent database from which researchers can draw because most research work published in this area in which the phenomenon is embedded deals with other aspects such as pest control, ecology and insect-plant interactions. Consequently, scientists should be encouraged to carry out studies relating insect resurgence to population ecology and thus, allowing resurgence to be viewed within a broader ecological context.
2. Pest resurgence has been noticed both in the agricultural and health sectors. Therefore, there is a need for concerted efforts by entomologists and related disciplines and Government agencies in funding collaborative studies to abate this problem.
3. The Nigerian Agricultural production system is characterized by small holder farmers, insect pest resurgence, weeds, diseases, low yields and poor storage systems. It was resolved that biotechnology is capable of improving Nigeria's sustainable agricultural production system by ensuring high yields and reduction in post-harvest losses. It is also capable of dealing with resistance and resurgence of notorious public health insect pests such as mosquitoes, bed bugs, blackflies etc.
4. Government should consciously fund Entomological research in both agriculture and health sectors in order to foster the Transformation Agenda of the Federal Government for its citizenry.
5. Government should legislate on the proper use of pesticides on food crops, animals and environment; determine safety levels and publicize the hazards resulting from over use and abuse. Entomological Society of Nigeria and the Institute of Entomology should play a key role in setting the standards for pesticide handling, application and registration of pest control practitioners.



**Prof. D.A. Enobakhare, fesn  
National President**



**Prof. M.O. Ashamo, fesn  
National Secretary**