

RAMPA RATTANARITHIKUL

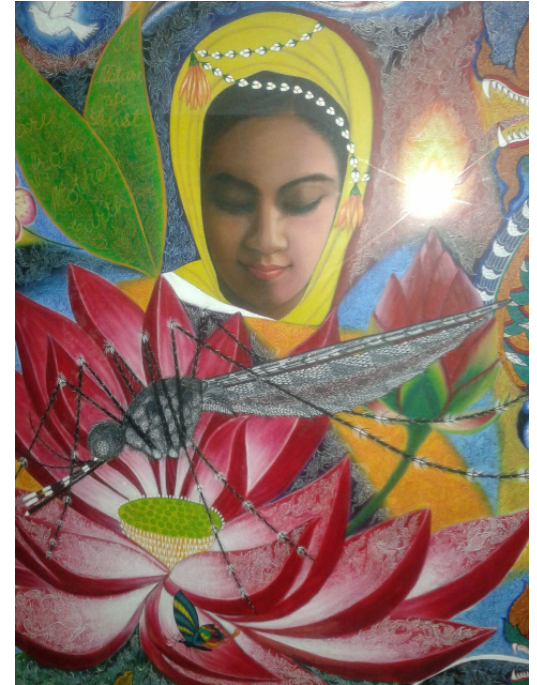
(1939 - Present)

Fields: Taxonomy

Subject: Mosquitoes

Nationality: Taiwanese

Entomologist
of the
Month



Rampa Rattnarithikul has dedicated her life to the study of mosquitoes and raising awareness for environmental conservation. Her work began in 1959 as a lab technician, conducting malaria mosquito research. By 1965, she was invited to conduct taxonomic work for the Smithsonian Institution. It wasn't until 1996 that Rampa received her doctorate in medical entomology from Kobe University in Japan, learning Japanese to do so. Throughout her career, Rampa has collected, classified, dissected, and analyzed hundreds of thousands of specimens in the field. Most of these have found their home at the Walter Reed Biosystematics Unit at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, where they constitute half of the collection's 1.5 million mosquitoes - the largest in the world. The culmination of her life's work is the six-volume "Illustrated Keys to the Mosquitoes of Thailand", a significant contribution to both mosquito taxonomy and vector-borne disease research. In 1999, Rampa and her husband Manop founded the Museum of World Insects and Natural Wonders in Thailand to share their love for the natural world.

References:

- Rattnarithikul, R. et al. (2005). Illustrated Keys to the Mosquitoes of Thailand I. *SE Asian J Trop Med Public Health*
- (Above, right) Rattnarithikul, M. "The Mosquito's Friend". Commissioned for the Museum of World Insects and Natural Wonders, Chiang Mai, Thailand
- This factsheet was produced by Sean Bresnahan, a Penn State Integrative Pollinator Ecology graduate student

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