



MALAYSIAN SOCIETY OF PARASITOLOGY AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
PERSATUAN KAJIPARASIT DAN PERUBATAN TROPIKA MALAYSIA

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DR. LIM BOO LIAT, MSc, Ph.D

Lim Boo Liat began his zoological career in the Institute for Medical Research as a laboratory assistant with the Scrub Typhus Research Unit in 1947. In 1958, he was awarded a Sino-British Fellowship Award for a one year course on "Animal Ecology" at the Oxford University England and University of Aberdeen, Scotland and "Taxonomic study of Southeast Asia mammals (Volant and non-volant mammals) at the Natural History Museum, London. In 1961, he spent 3 months to further his taxonomic study of vertebrate animal (mammals, reptiles and amphibians) at the Natural History Museums at Chicago and at New York and the Smithsonian Museums, Washington which was supported by the Hooper Foundation San Francisco Medical Centre, University of California, San Francisco U.S.A. In 1963, he was promoted to Research Experimental Officer working on host-parasite "relationships under the tutorship of Professor Lie Kian Joe and Professor D. Heyneman whom pioneered the study on *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*, an etiologic agent of human eosinophilic meningo-encephalitis in Malaysia in particular and other parasites of medical and public health importance in general.

The late Director of IMR, Ungku Dato Dr. Omar Ahmad created a new Medical Ecology Division in 1965 where he was asked to head the Division. In 1969, he was awarded a Medical Research Council Fellowship, London to pursue post-graduate study of the University of Aberdeen Scotland where he worked on "Ecological studies on *Acacthocephalaw*, *Proflicullis botulus* (von cleave, 1916) in the Eider duck, *Somateria mollissima*, (L) and Shore crab, *Carcinus maenas*, (L.) from the Ythan Estuary, Aberdeenshire and obtained his M.Sc in 1972. Upon his return to IMR, he was promoted as a zoologist in charge of the Medical Ecology Division. Through the help of Professor Dr. C.P. Ramachandran, the Dean of School of Biological Sciences at Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, he registered for a Ph.D in 1975 as a part-time candidate on the "Ecological study on *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in Malaysia" and graduated in 1977. During 1953-1977, he authored and co-authored 151 scientific and natural history papers on mammals, reptiles and amphibians and host-parasite relationships published in local and international journals including a book on "Poisonous snakes of Malaysia" which was published by the Malayan Nature Society, Kuala Lumpur. In mid 1977, he was seconded to World Health Organisation (WHO) as Senior Scientist in the inter-regional "Vector Biology and Rodent Control Unit, Geneva stationed in Jakarta, Indonesia.

He is one of the founder members of the Malaysian Society of Parasitology and Tropical Medicine in 1964 where he served as a Committee member intermittently. For his host-parasite relationship research activities with local and foreign scientists, 3 each of ecto-parasite spp. and helminthes and a spp. of protozoa were named after him from 1962-1977.