



**Dr Bina Pani Das, M. Sc., Ph. D**

**Dr Bina Pani Das** got married in 11<sup>th</sup> standard in Kolkata and completed her schooling from West Bengal Board of Secondary Education in 1966. She came to Delhi and graduated in B. Sc. (Hons) Zoology from Hindu College, Delhi University (DU) in 1970. She got Master Degree in Zoology (Spcl. Entomology) from Miranda House, DU in 1974 and Ph. D in Entomology from Department of Zoology, Delhi University in 1982.

Dr Das is a Medical Entomologist and has been associated with mosquito vectors of human diseases since 1980's; first with Indian Council of Medical Research as Research Associate and then over a period of 22 years with erstwhile National Institute of Communicable Diseases, DGHS, Government of India, from where she retired in 2007 as Joint Director. Thereafter she was with the Jamia Millia Islamia University in connection with "Mosquito vectors of Japanese encephalitis virus from Northern India" a project supported by DST, Govt. of India.

She has over 30 years of proven expertise in preparation of books, catalogues, Check lists and pictorial keys of insects belonging to social wasps (Hymenoptera: Vespidae and Stenogastridae) and mosquitoes (Diptera: Culicidae). The book "Pictorial key to the species of Indian Anopheline Mosquitoes" published in 1990 has been distributed by World Health Organization, SEARO, New Delhi in some South East Asian Countries where the mosquito fauna is more or less similar. The book has been widely acclaimed and proved useful reference for rapid identification of Anopheline mosquitoes in the region. Her last book "Mosquito Vectors of Japanese Encephalitis Virus from Northern India" published by Springer in 2012 wherein she developed "BPD Hop Cage Method" a simple, cost-effective, operationally feasible sampling tool specially designed to capture predominantly outdoor resting mosquitoes from land and aquatic vegetation. This tool has helped to study nearly every aspect of JE vector bionomics and establish entomological evidences of JE outbreaks occurring in Northern India upon its use since 2003.

During field studies, Dr Das has discovered pathogenic property of a ciliate (microbe) first time in science. Her passion for research led her to become the inventor of the patent application entitled "Microbial Control Agent for Mosquito Vectors of Human Diseases" which has so far been granted by seven countries, viz. USA, Australia, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Philippines and India to the applicants National Centre for Disease Control, DGHS, Min. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India and Department of Biotechnology, Min. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India..