

The Angel of Death

by **Geoffrey Clarfield** (September 2010)

When primary rain forest covered Africa, the mosquito had no need to adapt to urban environments, and thus city dwellers were more protected from the disease. However in the post colonial era, as hardwood logging and population growth have attained critical mass, with bush replacing forest and concrete replacing bush, the malaria-bearing mosquito did not die off, but evolved. It can now thrive anywhere, especially since the forest's destruction led to soil erosion and subsequent flooding, which further encouraged the mosquito's proliferation.