

THE HISTORY OF MALARIA'S STUDYING

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It is considered, that the birthplace of Malaria is West Africa (*P. falciparum*) and Central Africa (*P. vivax*). The first chronic evidence of the fever, caused by malaria, has been found in China, it was dated near 2700 BC. In 1880 a French army doctor Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran (1845 - 1922), who worked in Algeria, suggested that malaria was caused by protozoa. For this and other discoveries he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1907. The name of the genus *Plasmodium* parasite was proposed in 1895 by Italian scientists Ettore Marchiafava and Angelo Celli. In 1894, parasitologist Patrick Manson firstly suggested that malaria could be transmitted to humans by mosquitoes. The Englishman Ronald Ross (1857 - 1932), who worked in India, in 1898 identified the parasites from the salivary glands of the mosquito. In 1902 he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the description of the life cycle of the malaria parasite. Giovanni Battista Grassi (1854 - 1925) in 1898 managed to carry out experimental human infection with malaria through mosquito bites. The first known medicine for malaria was the Qinghai plant (*Artemisia annua* L), which contains artemisinin, the first mention of that was found in Ge Kong's work in 340 BC.

With the opening of the New World, a new remedy, cinchona bark, appeared. It was used for centuries by Indians as an antipyretic. The first description of Quinine was given by a prominent Spanish historian-a naturalist Bernabé Cobo (1580 - 1657), a Jesuit missionary. In 1632 he brought it firstly to Europe.

Italian Cardinal de Lugo Nuan (1583 - 1660) launched a major campaign for the application of quinine, and in 1640 it was actively used in Europe. However, the active ingredient quinine was isolated from the bark only in 1820 by French chemists Pierre Joseph Pelletier (1788-1842) and Joseph Caventou (1795 - 1877).

Although the life cycle stages of the parasite, passing in the man's bloodstream and in the mosquito's body, were described in the late XIX - early XX century, only in the 80s of the last century it became known of the existence of the stationary phase. The discovery of this form of the parasite finally explained, how people cured of malaria, could again get sick after the disappearance of parasite cells from the bloodstream.