



ANTÓNIO DAMAS MORA: A PORTUGUESE DOCTOR IN THE TROPICS

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Abstract

António Damas Mora (1879-1949) was a medical doctor who dedicated his life and career to tropical medicine, and worked in almost all of Portugal's former colonies, i.e. Tomé e Príncipe (1902 -1910), Timor (1914 -1919), Angola (1921 - 1934) and Macau (1934 - 1936), holding the highest posts in the hierarchy of colonial health authorities.

Besides this eminently practical side of his career, he was also director of the health department of the Colonial Ministry (1920), interim-governor of Angola (1928-1929) and director of the Instituto de Medicina Tropical in Lisbon (1936-1939).

Advocate of social and prophylactic medicine, he tenaciously combated the drop in demographic indicators and the principal diseases endemic in Portugal's former colonies, establishing the Medical Assistance to Indigenous People (Assistência Médica aos Indígenas, AMI) to achieve that goal.