



Professor Dr. C. Kalkman

IN MEMORIAM CORNELIS (KEES) KALKMAN (1928–1998)

With the sudden and untimely death of Kees Kalkman on 19 January 1998, systematic botany in general and the Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus in particular lost a great servant. The word servant is appropriate, because in a totally unselfish and very conscientious way Kalkman carried out all the duties associated with the various functions he held during his distinguished career. Kalkman's busy schedule was filled by doing things that were useful for others and for projects or institutions he believed in.

In an earlier note on the occasion of his retirement (Blumea 35 [1991] 277–278), I have briefly sketched Kalkman's career and stressed his important role as Director, first of the Rijksherbarium, and later of the Research Institute Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus. With the passing of time it is becoming increasingly evident how Kalkman's strategic planning and actions have benefited the institute and systematic botany in Leiden.

Born on the 5th of May, 1928, in Delft Kalkman successfully completed his Highschool (HBS-B) education in The Hague in June 1946. As all young men in those post-war years he had to enter compulsory military service for the duration of one and a half year. In October 1948 he embarked on the study of his choice, biology, at Leiden University, to be completed with the 'doctoraal' examination (roughly equivalent to an MSc degree) in January 1955. With 6 years and 3 months Kalkman belonged to the category of fast students. From 1951 he had, moreover, combined his study with an active demonstratorship at the Rijksherbarium. Kalkman's preference for plant systematics was clear from the choice of two of his three research projects: a taxonomic revision of four genera of Burseraceae under supervision of the then Rijksherbarium director H. J. Lam, and a floristic analysis of the Lesser Sunda Islands under C. G. G. J. van Steenis, then recently repatriated from Indonesia with his Flora Malesiana team. The third subject was on the ecology of sow-bugs in the Netherlands. In 1956 he was appointed as forest botanist with the Forestry Service (Boswezen) in what was then Dutch New Guinea, for a period of three years. In April 1959 his appointment as Scientific Officer (later to be changed into Lecturer) at the Rijksherbarium followed, but he was allowed to extend his stay in New Guinea until September of that year, to participate in the successful expedition to the Star Mountains. From then on his career was firmly linked with Leiden University. Professor Lam gave him the task of coordinating all teaching of systematic botany to freshmen and second- and third-year students – at that time this involved several extensive lecture and practical courses and a substantial programme of field excursions. Kalkman proved to be a thorough, though not always very inspiring teacher. As a student my best memories of him are as an excursion leader, when both his real enthusiasm for plants and his great sense of humour and relativity came through. The poker games in the evening hours with demonstrators and students using Kalkman's dice and superior leather poker set laid the foundation of many long lasting friendships.

As a subject for his PhD research a revision of the genus *Pygeum* (Rosaceae) had been chosen. The thesis was successfully defended on 28 April 1965, but in the course of his studies Kalkman had been shocked to discover that *Pygeum* did not merit generic status but that its species all firmly belonged to *Prunus*. The Rosaceae were to retain his great interest until his death (see the bibliography below). One of the last projects he completed just before his death was a family account for Kubitzki & Renner's Families and Genera of Flowering Plants. Other research interests he pursued throughout were economic botany, comparative morphology and general principles of systematics and taxonomy (two distinct concepts in the Leiden tradition). However, the numerous claims that were laid on his organisational and administrative talents never left him much time to contribute substantially to the literature in these fields.

In the late sixties and early seventies Kalkman played a prominent role in the creation of new, democratic bodies governing university policies. In 1972 he was appointed as Director of the Rijksherbarium and Professor of 'Special' Botany (i.e., plant systematics) succeeding C.G.G.J. van Steenis who had given such a strong profile to these functions during his nine years' tenure. The Royal Netherlands Botanical Society elected Kalkman a Vice President and Editorial Chairman of *Acta Botanica Neerlandica* from 1971–1974. From 1979–1983 he would serve the same society as Chairman. From 1975–1977 he was Dean of the Subfaculty of Biology, and in 1980 and 1981 he was given the very demanding post of Dean of the Science Faculty. During the latter period the strain of office and overburdening himself with work showed, and he had to be treated for heart fibrillation. He had to take medication for this relatively harmless condition ever since. Many were his other extracurricular functions. Here I only mention his long-lasting chairmanship of the Treub Maatschappij (a society furthering research in the tropics). In recognition of his great merits for this society Kalkman had been nominated for the Valentijn Award by the present Board of the Treub Maatschappij, but overtaken by his sudden death the award had to be presented posthumously to his widow, Mrs. Jopie Kalkman in May of this year.

As Director of the Rijksherbarium and later of the combined Rijksherbarium/Hortus Botanicus Kalkman very ably sailed his institute through heavy storms. In the late seventies and early eighties systematic botany in Leiden survived very heavy pressures and could avoid severe budget cuts only thanks to Kalkman's tenacious defence and combined strategy for organisational reform and preservation of the core missions of an institute in collection management, research and teaching. In the late eighties, after the successful merger with the Hortus Botanicus, Kalkman felt that the darkest clouds had lifted and that the institute was well positioned for a safe and prosperous future. He therefore rightly felt justified to take early retirement and hand over the reigns to a younger successor.

Retirement did him much good. After his well-attended valedictory lecture on 13 December 1990 and the large farewell party thrown by the staff of his institute a day later, he soon returned to the institute to work daily on a number of projects he wished to complete: the Rosaceae for Flora Malesiana (published in 1993) and an original and broad textbook in Dutch on Economic Botany (manuscript almost completed just

before his death). And he felt duty-bound to positively honour our requests to take up and continue the time-consuming job of Editor-in-Chief of *Flora Malesiana* and to carry out several other tasks he was so uniquely capable of doing well. His work for *Flora Malesiana* cannot be underestimated. In a period when the format of the *Flora* was modernised and rationalised he communicated with many authors of wide-ranging botanical and linguistic backgrounds with kindness and patience, in order to make sure that after years of very slow progress the output of this Mega-Flora project once again increased substantially. It is gratifying that he lived to see Volume 13, which shows the *Flora* in a modern and attractive format, including colour illustrations of the mascotte family of FM: the *Rafflesiaceae*. He took great satisfaction in teaching himself several new word processing and illustration skills for his work on *Flora Malesiana* and the textbook of Economic Botany. We hope to complete the latter project posthumously.

As a scientist Kalkman's written output remained relatively small, as witnessed by the bibliography printed below. His greatest significance lies in his modestly displayed but strong leadership of our institute, enabling several new branches of plant systematics such as phylogenetics, historical biogeography, and comparative ultrastructural research to flourish during his directorship. His strategic success for the institute was to no small degree thanks to his absolute integrity that was respected by all in the hierarchy of Leiden University and the Dutch research establishment. His contributions to Malesian Botany will remain of lasting significance.

Kees Kalkman was a kind and very considerate person. During his directorship that kindness and consideration was sometimes hidden behind the overwhelming sense of duty he felt himself, and which he rightfully demanded of others (though never to an unreasonable extent). He was parsimonious with compliments, because he never expected compliments for his own work, however well-done, and because he wanted to avoid personal favoritism. In the more relaxed years of his retirement he showed his appreciation of others more easily. During his farewell party he had been unduly teased for not handing out enough encouraging shoulder pats to his staff. Nevertheless he once confided to me that he had a 'hidden agenda' of human resource management that was inspired by the ideal that everyone should be enabled to be happy in his or her work, be it in mounting herbarium specimens, teaching or research. He will be greatly missed by us all and many outside the institute. We were overwhelmed with many expressions of grief and condolence from all over the world in the weeks following his death. Our sympathy goes to his devoted wife Jopie and his daughters Fieke and Hermieneke.

Pieter Baas

Eponymy

- Burseraceae: *Santiria kalkmaniana* K.M. Kochummen
- Ericacea: *Dimorphanthera kalkmanii* Sleum.
- Leguminosae: *Abarema kalkmanii* Kosterm.
- Leguminosae: *Archidendron kalkmanii* (Kosterm.) I. Nielsen
- Myristicaceae: *Myristica kalkmanii* W.J.J.O. de Wilde

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