

THE MYCOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS OF K. B. BOEDIJN

M. A. DONK

Rijksherbarium, Leiden

(With Plate 4)

After a distinguished career as a collaborator of Prof. Hugo de Vries, the famous geneticist, Karel Bernard Boedijn (born June 29, 1893, at Amsterdam) became a mycologist, and it is in this latter capacity that he will be primarily remembered.

He had already started to pay attention to the fungi during his Amsterdam period when C. van Overeem, Miss D. M. G. de Haas (who later married van Overeem), and Boedijn banded together and called themselves the "Mycologisch Museum te Weesp". They started building up a collection which, however, never became very big. After some years van Overeem accepted a position in the Herbarium of the Botanic Gardens at Buitenzorg (now Bogor) in Java, where he died after a short but active period (1921-1927). The collections on liquid of the "Mycologisch Museum" are now at the "Hugo de Vries-Laboratorium", Amsterdam, while the dried material, taken to Java by van Overeem, will be found in the collections of Herbarium Bogoriense.

Boedijn, too, wanted to become better acquainted with the tropics. To further this goal he accepted a position as a botanist in the "Algemeen Proefstation A.V.R.O.S." (General Experimental Station A.V.R.O.S.) at Medan (Sumatra East Coast) in 1926. Thus a long period of active collecting and studying fungi started, interrupted only by World War II and its aftermath, and not ending until he finally returned to The Netherlands in 1958.

After a short stay at Medan and after having returned to The Netherlands, Boedijn succeeded van Overeem as a mycologist in the Buitenzorg Herbarium (1928-1941). In 1933 he was appointed Extraordinary Professor of Botany at the Faculty of Medicine at Batavia (now Djakarta) in addition to his other duties. Shortly after the beginning of the war with Japan he gave up his position at the Herbarium and became a full-time Professor of Botany in the Faculty of Medicine and at the same time in the Faculty of Agriculture at Buitenzorg (1941). After the war this task was divided and his professorship became restricted to Buitenzorg (Bogor). In 1958 he retired and returned to The Netherlands, The Hague, continuing his mycological studies at home in close connection with the Mycological Department of the Rijksherbarium at Leiden. During this last period he contributed several papers to the newly founded mycological periodical "Persoonia". On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his birthday in 1963 his many friends paid homage to him as a distinguished mycologist of world-wide fame. The "Nederlandse

Mycologische Vereniging" made him a Honorary Member on that occasion. He died suddenly on Augustus 26th, 1964, at The Hague.

With Boedijn's death a very remarkable mycological career came to an end. His prominence was the result of a composite set of factors. He was one of the very few mycologists who lived in the tropics for a long span of time and maintained a keen interest in his fieldwork. During most of his activity in the tropics he was able to refer to the libraries at Buitenzorg (Bogor) which contain a good collection of mycological publications. Moreover, he never really specialized in one group in particular for a very long period. As soon as he had mastered one subject and had committed his knowledge of it to a manuscript, he started work on another, often quite unrelated, group. He always maintained a high standard both in his microscopical and cytological observations as well as in his cultural work. All this resulted in a long series of excellent notes and usually rather short monographs on the most diverse groups of Indonesian fungi. The following bibliography shows how astonishingly wide his field of interests was.

A mycologist with such wide a knowledge was excellently suited to work up local collections: he actually undertook this kind of work twice, in naming the fungi collected by Dr. O. Jaag in the Lesser Sunda Islands and by various collectors (including himself) of the islands of the Krakatau group.

Many of his published papers are short and often deal only with small groups. Nevertheless they form together with the more extensive papers an unequalled fund of information on the mycology of Indonesia. It is perhaps safe to say that in this regard Boedijn has surpassed the mycological efforts of all other botanists. When interest in the fungi is revived in Indonesia it may be advisable to consider the production of a photoprint edition of his collected work on Indonesian fungi, because it will form the basis of much future work in that area.

Most of his Indonesian collections were deposited in Herbarium Bogoriense but he also built up a personal herbarium which was sold to the Botanical Museum and Herbarium at Utrecht.

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K. Boedijn

PROF. DR. K. B. BOEDIJN

From a photograph taken on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of his birthday