

## Korte mededelingen

### Willem Cornelis Nijveldt, Amsterdam 25 June 1922 – Renkum 11 September 2016

Wim Nijveldt (figure 1-2), who started his scientific career in 1948 as an assistant in Entomology at the University of Amsterdam, was a 'self-made man'. From 1954 until his retirement in 1987, he held a position at the Research Institute for Plant Protection (IPO) in Wageningen, working for many years on plant-insect relationships.

He became well-known to entomologists all over the world, in particular to those working on gall midges (Cecidomyiidae). With his background, Wim had to set his own trail, especially because at IPO the focus of the research was on novel pests or on problems which others could not solve. Wageningen had a community of entomologists, not only in some of the governmental institutes, but also at the university, where the Laboratory of Entomology was situated at the same location as IPO.

Wim was selective in choosing his friends; he disliked people who were dishonest or those who complicated the life of others. He was never absent at scientific meetings of the department, but avoided many with a more informal character.

In contrast to this, he was always prepared to help someone with great alacrity. A young colleague found himself installed in the Entomology Department of IPO, to work on aphids, although he was a cell biologist and a man trained in medicine. The poor fellow knew very little of insects. He had a difficult start but the good luck to meet Wim, who directly brought him into contact with the right

specialists. Wim and the cell biologist remained friends during all their life.

Entomology was not Wim's only interest. He was a keen botanist and gardener and he also liked painters and painting. His funeral card shows a beautiful painting that he made of the Wageningen Arboretum, situated on a hill with a view to the river Rhine (figure 3). It shows dark trunks of trees on the left and right with a wealth of flowers in the foreground and trees in full blossom at the back. This contrast between dark and light is a token of Wim's life-long experience with the character of human beings, his war-time experiences, and the tragic death of his son in 1980.

Wim's scientific output was substantial. He published in *Entomologische Berichten* a series of eleven papers on 'New gall midge species for the Dutch fauna', recording 80 species of which ten were new to science (1950-1999). A number of these became important in biological control of aphids and mites. He also completed the series of books by H.F. Barnes on 'Gall midges of economic importance', when Barnes died suddenly in 1960, and as a result he authored the eighth volume on zoophagous and fungivorous species and those that attack weeds (1968). In P. Beuk's 'Checklist of the Diptera of the Netherlands', he wrote the section on gall midges (2002). In 1974, he trained a Japanese scientist, Junichi Yukawa, for his doctoral thesis. Yukawa later became professor at the Kyushu University and founded a famous school of gall midge researchers in Japan. Last



3. Aquarelle of Belmonte Arboretum, Wageningen, by Wim Nijveldt.

3. Aquarel van het Belmonte Arboretum, Wageningen, door Wim Nijveldt.

but not least: Wim's collection of more than 5.600 microscope slides, 4.300 of Dutch origin, is now included in the Naturalis Biodiversity Center collections, and is a major reference for gall midge research.

An outstanding entomologist has passed away; may he remain in our memory for a long time.

## Samenvatting

### Willem Cornelis Nijveldt, Amsterdam 25 juni 1922 – Renkum 11 september 2016

Wim Nijveldt was in de tweede helft van de vorige eeuw een internationaal gerespecteerd, specialist in galmuggen (Cecidomyiidae). Hij was werkzaam op het Instituut voor Plantenziektenkundig Onderzoek (IPO) te Wageningen. Van zijn hand verschenen onder meer elf publicaties in 'Entomologische Berichten' waarin hij 80 soorten vermeldde als nieuw voor de Nederlandse fauna, tien hiervan waren nieuw voor de wetenschap. Voorts voltooide hij na de dood van H.F. Barnes het achtste deel van Gall Midges of Economic Importance (1968) en verzorgde hij het galmuggen deel in de Checklist of the Diptera in the Netherlands (2002). Zijn omvangrijke collectie microscopische preparaten is ondergebracht in Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden.

Hans Roskam  
Leiden University  
Institute of Biology  
P.O. box 9505  
2300 RA Leiden  
j.c.roskam@biology.leidenuniv.nl

Paul Harrewijn  
Hamsterlaan 6  
6705 CT Wageningen



1. Wim Nijveldt in 2016.  
Photo: L. Kraijkamp-Nijveldt



2. Presentation of the fourth edition of Docters van Leeuwen 'Gallenboek' to Wim Nijveldt by Hans Roskam, September 2009. Photo: L. Kraijkamp-Nijveldt  
2. Presentatie van de vierde editie van Docters van Leeuwen 'Gallenboek' aan Wim Nijveldt door Hans Roskam, september 2009.