

*"Nature has given much inspiration leading to meditation"*  
Translated from the funeral card of H.G.M. Teunissen.

## Obituary and bibliography of Hermanus Gerardus Maria Teunissen (1914-1992)

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Achterberg, C. van. Obituary and bibliography of Hermanus Gerardus Maria Teunissen (1914-1992).

Zool. Med. Leiden 66 (18),31.xii.1992: 309-311, 1 photograph.— ISSN 0024-0672.

Key words: Teunissen; obituary; bibliography; Aculeata; Apidae; Ichneumonidae.

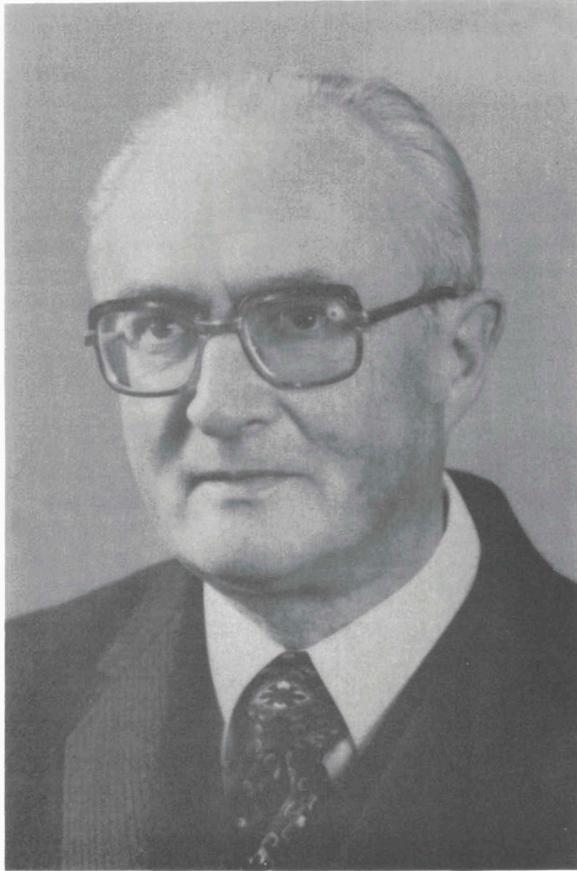
The obituary and bibliography of Hermanus Gerardus Maria Teunissen (16.x.1914-3.i.1992) is given.

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### Obituary

Unexpectedly, full of plans for collecting trips in the coming season, Hermanus Gerardus Maria Teunissen died in hospital in Nijmegen on 3 January, 1992. He was born 16 October 1914 in Oss, where his father had a management position at the Unilever company, and he got his secondary school training at the Canisius College at Nijmegen. His father encouraged him to take university training and he decided to study medicine at the State University at Leiden. Part of his study was done in the train between Leiden and Voorburg, where his parents lived at the time. He graduated in 1938, and because of the mobilisation of the Dutch Army he had to go to the province of Limburg. In 1944 he was in Venlo and helped (often under the eyes of the German military) to operate on wounded soldiers of the allied forces without fear for his life. Later he was evacuated (through Germany) to Friesland when Venlo was under fire. After the war he became a popular general practitioner at Berghem, not far from Oss.

He had wide interests, and for some time he was very active in local archeology. He managed to collect an important collection of artefacts from Limburg and Brabant, which is now in the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden (State Museum of Antiquities) at Leiden. Later he devoted his spare time completely to Hymenoptera. His late brother, the priest J. Teunissen, (who worked during his last years in Best) was very much interested in entomology and he encouraged Herman to start with Hymenoptera as a hobby. Herman started with making an excellent collection of Symphyta and Ichneumonidae from The Netherlands, now, together with his other Hymenoptera, in the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum at Leiden. With the help of his brother he devoted himself to Ichneumonidae, the largest and one of the most difficult families of Hymenoptera to study. Delayed by the war he published in 1945 on Ctenopelmatinae and in 1947 on Campopleginae. Later he added a paper with notes on Tryphoninae and Ctenopelmatinae. In total he described 33 species of Ichneumonidae new to science.



H.G.M. Teunissen (1914-1992).

After 1955 hardly any time was left for the study of Hymenoptera because of his demanding job as a G.P. A manuscript on Ichneumoninae was reworked by his brother, who also sorted his collection before donating it to the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum. After his retirement his eyes did not allow him to continue his study of Ichneumonidae, so he turned to larger insects. His favourite group became *Andrena* (sandbees), especially of the south-western Palaearctic region, but he collected all Apidae sensu lato. He made extensive collection trips to several islands and the mainland of Greece, to Turkey, Egypt, Morocco, Spain and Portugal. He collected many other groups of insects for friends, e.g. rare Braconidae, Symphyta, and butterflies.

He made a treasure of figures of the genitalia and other important structures of *Andrena* (he covering 90% of the West Palaearctic species!) and *Osmia*. He discovered several new species and corrected many mistakes in existing collections, partly because of his study of the Pérez and Ferton collections in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle at Paris. He re-identified the Pérez species of *Andrena* and made notes in a copy of the handwritten catalogue of Pérez. It is a real pity that Herman did not publish his results, including his figures and notes on types and new species. He had a keen eye for finding minor differences between species and for collecting unknown or rarely collected species. He had a passion for literature on Aculeate Hymenoptera, and assembled an important reprint collection now part of the reprint collection of the Hymenoptera department of the Nationaal Natuurhistorische Museum. He became a honorary staff member ("wetenschappelijk medewerker buiten bezwaar van 's Rijks Schatkist") of this museum in recognition of his entomological activities.

He was a hard working and very helpful colleague who readily gave information on bees and supplied copies of rare literature. He even went to several foreign libraries to make photocopies of rare publications and visited foreign museums to find types for colleagues. For instance, he discovered in the Pérez collection several

"lost" types of bees. Teunissen was an active member of the Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging (Dutch Entomological Society) and he loved to talk about his bees. After his retirement he regularly visited the Society's library in Amsterdam and the Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum. We will miss this modest man's visits and his regular supply of interesting specimens!

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### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the following persons for kindly supplying additional information: Mr F. van Corstanje (Oss), Dr A.L. Cox (Mook) and Mr G van der Zanden (Eindhoven). Dr A. Polaszek (Amsterdam) for giving his comments on the first draft.

Received: 1.vii.1992

Accepted: 18.viii.1992

Edited: J.C. den Hartog