

Obituary and bibliography of G. van der Zanden (1915-1999)

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Achterberg, C. van. Obituary and bibliography of G. van der Zanden (1915-1999).

Zool. Med. Leiden 73 (17), 6.iii.2000: 269-272, 1 photograph.— ISSN 0024-0672.

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Key words: obituary; bibliography; G. van der Zanden; Hymenoptera; Aculeata; Apidae; Megachilinae; Palaearctic.

An obituary and bibliography of G. van der Zanden (8.vi.1915-22.ii.1999) is presented.

Obituary

Completely unexpectedly, Mr G. van der Zanden died on 22 February, 1999 at his home in Eindhoven from a heart attack. He was born on 8 June, 1915 in Amsterdam; his youth was troubled by the early loss of his father. After completing secondary school he went to a technical college in Amsterdam. In 1937 he moved with his family to Eindhoven where he had a management position within the Philips company. His passion for bees started in 1950 when he was confined to his bed, because of a hernia. Through reading the "Souvenirs Entomologiques" by the famous French entomologist J.H. Fabre he got a life-long interest in Hymenoptera-Aculeata, and especially in the group of bees that collect pollen in a special hairy patch on their belly, the Megachilinae. After a successful career, which took him to many places all over Europe, he took early retirement at the age of 58. For 25 years, till the age of 83, he worked with an admirable persistence on the Palaearctic Megachilinae. The result is a large number of publications, some reviews, the descriptions of several species new to science, honorary staff membership of the National Museum of Natural History at Leiden and, very importantly, a large and completely identified collection. Because of his many international contacts this collection has a wide scope and will prove to be important for future study of the group. His collection will be an important integrated part of the collection of Aculeate Hymenoptera in the National Museum of Natural History at Leiden. Through his publications on the distribution of Megachiline bees (e.g. through the Dutch branch of the European Invertebrate Survey at Leiden) he enlarged our knowledge of the distribution of the group considerably.

On a wintery day in February we buried him; we will miss him.



G. van der Zanden (1915-1999)

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Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mrs H.C. van der Zanden-Farenhorst (Eindhoven), Ms A. van der Zanden (Bergen op Zoom) and Th. Peeters (Tilburg) for providing information and Dr M.R. Shaw (Edinburgh) is gratefully acknowledged for his comments on the first draft of this paper.

Received: 30.iii.1999

Accepted: 31.iii.1999

Edited: R. de Jong