

IN MEMORIUM

Dirk Cornelis Geijskes (1907–1985)

The sudden passing of D.C. Geijskes on 27 September 1985 took another aquatic entomologist from our ranks. He was born on 16 May 1907 in Kats, Holland and died in Oeastgeest, Holland at the age of 78.

Dirk Cornelis Geijskes had his early school training in Zoelmond and Hertogenbosch, Holland and in 1927 began to study Biology at the University of Leiden. During his summer vacation in 1929 he went on a study trip to the West Indies and visited the islands: Trinidad, Tobago and Barbados. From 1930 to 1932 he served as a laboratory assistant in Leiden and passed his teachers examination.

From January to March 1933 he studied at the University of Kiel under Prof. A. Thienemann and Dr. Fr. Lenz. Then in the spring of the year 1933 he began his doctoral study at the University of Basel with Dr. E. Handschin. His doctoral dissertation, "Faunistisch-ökologische Untersuchungen am Röserenbach bei Liestal im Baslar Tafeljura" was completed in 1935. This was a classical limnological study and included physical and chemical parameters as well as the composition of the aquatic fauna.

His doctoral study and university training led him to become interested in aquatic insects and he later studied and published especially on the orders Odonata, Plecoptera and Tricoptera. Actually his list of publications contains 110+ titles and includes subjects as varied as entomology, parasitology, limnology, botany, geology, malacology, ornithology, archeology, and zoogeography. However, his main interest was with the dragonflies and damselflies and during his professional years as a curator at the Rijksmuseum of Natural History in Leiden he published widely on the Odonata from many parts of the world.

From a zoogeographical standpoint his interests ranged from the rivers and streams of Central Europe to the many exotic habitats in the West Indies, Surinam and the Sunda Archipelago. He traveled often to Surinam and became one of the major leaders in promoting natural history investigations in this interesting South American territory.

Although he only published a few papers on Plecoptera his work on the fauna of Holland and especially his two papers on the Sunda Islands are necessary foundations for any further research in these areas. In fact his descriptions and drawings of species in the Nemouridae and Perlidae are so good that identifications can be made easily of these isolated species including those named after his early mentors: *Amphinemura handschini* and *A. thienemanni*.

He began studying the Plecoptera fauna of Surinam and reported on some of his findings at the International Plecoptera Symposium in Abisko, Sweden in 1968. However, he never did publish these studies even though he continued to work with these interesting tropical perlids and talked about them willingly to interested colleagues as recently as a few years ago.

In 1973 I had the privilege of spending a week with Dr. Geijskes at the Rijksmuseum of Natural History in Leiden, Holland. Even though he was retired he came in to the museum every day and helped in every way that he could. I shall always remember his kind, generous attitude toward me as a young student and his keen knowledge of aquatic entomology and zoogeography.

Richard W. Baumann

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