

***In memoriam Henk van Mastrigt (1946 – 2015),
the loss of a friend of Papua and butterflies***

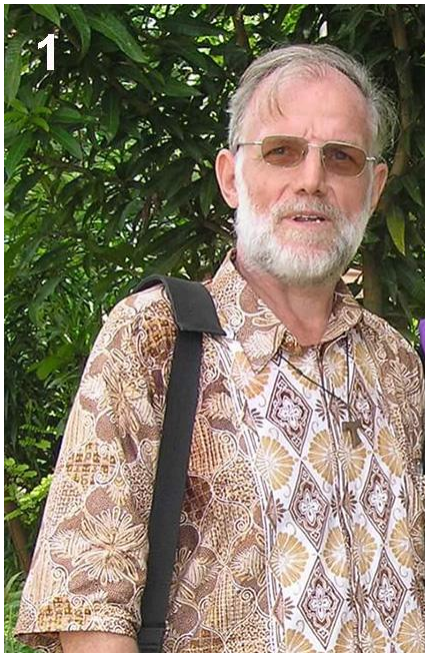
“God wishes that we help the animals when they need it”
(sensu St. Francis of Assisi)

Rob de Vos

Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Darwinweg 2, NL-2333 CR Leiden,
The Netherlands, email: rob.devos@naturalis.nl

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Henricus Jacobus Gerardus van Mastrigt, better known to his friends as Bruder Henk, was born in Heerlen, The Netherlands, on 15th January 1946 and died at the age of 69 on the 5th of August 2015 in Jayapura, Papua, Indonesia.

Henk was one of the last Dutch Catholic missionaries to serve in New Guinea. After Henk finished his study in Limburg at the Gymnasium at the Franciscan Monastery in Megen and his religious education in Weert, he studied Theology in Utrecht and finished his academic career with a course in Economy at the Highschool for Economics in Rotterdam in 1974.

Inspired by the stories of missionaries, since childhood Henk dreamt of going to the tropics. At the end of 1974 he arrived in Irian Jaya (Indonesia) and with much perseverance he became the missionary economist for the Franciscan Catholic

Church.

Henk inherited his passion for nature in general and for butterflies in particular from his father. As a child he already collected butterflies and other insects near Heerlen, Limburg. During his studies, the hobby was limited but it grew after he arrived in New Guinea. Since 1985 his collecting became more widespread and intensive until his collection of Papuan Lepidoptera became one of the most important in the world.

Henk had a particular interest in the so called River Whites (Jezebels) (*Delias*, Pieridae), dominantly white on the upperside but colourful and decoratively patterned on the underside. The River Whites have an interesting biology, being very selective in their habitat. The caterpillars, most of which are still unknown, feed on epiphytes (mistletoe). Male and female adults have separate habitats at different altitudes, occur very locally along isolated rivers.

These butterflies are sun lovers and are often rare, which makes them hard to collect. For Henk this was a challenge and soon he possessed one of the most important collections of Papuan *Delias* in the world. He discovered new species and subspecies and tried to solve taxonomic puzzles in this genus. His publications in official entomological magazines are numerous (see Bibliography). Henk had contact with many international scientists and visited important museum collections. Gradually Henk made himself a specialist in this subject.

Since 2000, his interest in teaching led him to involve biology students from the Universitas Cenderawasih (UNCEN) in Waena, near Jayapura, in his activities in the field. Henk visited many unexplored areas in Irian Jaya (later Papua) to collect Lepidoptera for his collection but also for science. Some outstanding students became his regular assistants in the field.

He taught the students the basics of entomology and helped them with projects and their thesis. Foreign scientists, who came to visit Henk and wanted to collect in the field, were asked to involve students in their survey and publications. This way, Henk helped the students and teachers of UNCEN to upgrade their work to a higher, more scientific level and they came in contact with foreign institutions and scientists.

With a group of inspired and ambitious students and teachers from UNCEN he founded in June 2006 “Kelompok Entomologi Papua” (Entomological Society of Papua) and from July 2006 he published interesting entomological facts and fieldwork results from the students and himself in a newsletter: “Suara Serangga Papua” (SUGAPA), which means “the sound of the insects of



Papua”. Two years later SUGAPA became an official entomological magazine with a new and colourful lay out that published articles in English by scientists from all over the world. Many species new to science have been described in SUGAPA, as well as faunistic notes and other interesting entomological facts.

One of Henk’s greatest experiences was to participate in the famous Foja Mountains Expedition in 2005. He was astonished by the wild animals that could be approached very closely without being scared as they had never seen humans before and showed no fear. On this expedition he discovered four *Delias* species new



to science in just 10 days (one of them, *Delias kristianiae* Van Mastrigt, 2006, was named after Mrs. Kristiana Herawati, Indonesia's First Lady, to honor her husband, President Mr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, for his efforts to save the Indonesian forest and to protect it against illegal logging, especially in Papua!). During his time in Papua, Henk discovered and collected many other species of butterflies and moths that were important or new to science. In recognition of this work, scientists have named several new species and subspecies after him. A list of these taxa is given below.

For many years Henk knew he was seriously ill with a sleeping cancer which he called "a ticking time bomb". His condition deteriorated suddenly in 2015 and during the last months of his life he was treated in the Jayapura hospital where he eventually died. His death was a great loss for his students and friends in Papua and all over the world. His kindness, willingness to help, expertise and local knowledge will be missed by all of us.

The fast rate of development of his disease is reflected in this first digital issue of SUGAPA. The articles which are presented here were edited and prepared by Henk himself during his illness but he was unable to complete the publication. It is in honor of Henk that his journal will be continued, now in a digital form.

List of taxa named in honor of Henk van Mastrigt:

Delias tessei mastrigti Yagashita, 1993 (= *D. virgo* Gerrits & Mastrigt, 1993) (Pieridae, Pierinae)
Delias niepelti henki Yagishita, 1997
Paraduba mastrigti Cassidy, 2003 (Lycaenidae, Lycaeninae)
Epimastidia mastrigti Schröder, 2010 (Lycaenidae, Lycaeninae)
Spilogramma mastrigti Eitschberger, 2001 (= *S. papuensis* Brechlin, 2001) (Sphingidae, Sphinginae)
Milionia mastrigti Inoue, 2003 (Geometridae, Ennominae)
Nyctemera mastrigti De Vos, 1996 (Erebidae, Arctiinae)
Spilosoma mastrigti De Vos, 2011 (Erebidae, Arctiinae)

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Fig. 1. Henk van Mastrigt (photo by Arthur Tipawael); **2.** Henk van Mastrigt collecting moths at light in Mappi (photo by Klemens Naraha); **3.** *Delias kristianiaae* Van Mastrigt, 2006 on an Indonesian stamp of 2007.

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