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A late Holocene forest fauna  
in the dunes of Noordwijk,  
The Netherlands,  
with *Spermodea lamellata*  
(p.195)



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# In memoriam Dr. A.C. van Bruggen

## 1929-2016

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Dr. A.C. (Dolf) van Bruggen, internationally renowned malacologist and zoologist, died on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. While referring to an earlier 'Festschrift' that was published on the occasion of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, his career and personality are described. A bibliography of his malacological scientific publications, additional newly described taxa since 2009, and a summary analysis of his work conclude this paper.

Key words: Van Bruggen, Mollusca, Gastropoda, Streptaxidae, taxonomy, Africa.

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June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016, Dr. Adolf Cornelis van Bruggen, Dolf for friends (Fig. 1), one of the most prominent Dutch malacologists and general zoologists passed away, leaving an emptiness that will be felt for a long time. Born in Den Haag (The Hague) July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1929, he attended the gymnasium in that city, to start studying biology at Leiden University in 1949. The typically Dutch academic title "Drs." was acquired in 1956, when he passed the so-called doctoral examination with systematic zoology as the principal subject next to systematic botany and ecology. This combination of disciplines can also be recognised in his life-long interests and work. The subject of his Ph.D. thesis, "Studies on the land molluscs of Zululand with notes on the distribution of land molluscs in southern Africa" (van



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Fig. 1. Dolf van Bruggen, October 2004 (photo: A.J. de Winter).

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Bruggen, 1969), shows both his favourite animals and the preferred area, land molluscs and Africa.

Dolf had a reputation of being formal and difficult to approach, but people who knew him better after a while experienced that quite the opposite was true. Dolf was modest, warm-hearted, genuinely interested in the people surrounding him and their families. He was always pleasant company, also because he was well informed about the everyday news. He had a fabulous active knowledge, not only about malacology, zoology and botany in general, but also about other disciplines, like geography and history, and was always prepared to freely share his knowledge with anyone interested. He was a keen collector of books dealing with his favourite disciplines (his huge private library was bequeathed to Naturalis). He was loyal to the people and organisations that mattered to him, and quite generous if these needed support. He was a member of a host of professional zoological organisations and generously donated expensive journals to the Naturalis library. He was a diplomat, never extreme in his views, always prepared to help colleagues, e.g. by informal review of manuscripts of both malacologists and non-malacologists, professionals and amateurs.

In 1948, at the age of 19, Dolf van Bruggen became a member of the Dutch Malacological Society, to stay until his death 68 years later. He has been one of the most active members of that society, promoting its prosperity in many ways, on the stage and behind the scenes. Over the years he served the society as Secretary (1953-1956), President (1970-1972), Treasurer (1983-1986), Editor of the newsletter *Correspondentieblad* (1951-1953, 1954-1956), and last but not least, from 1968 until his death, as a member of the Editorial Board, Editor-in-Chief most of the time, of *Basteria*. Without his ongoing aiming at high standards of scientific work, his kindly scrutinising the manuscripts, the contents of *Basteria* would not be what they are today.

Dolf van Bruggen has been an internationally renowned malacologist with a vast network of contacts all over the world, including many colleagues who became good friends. Acting as President of the *Unitas Malacologica*, the international organisation to further malacology world-wide, he organised in 1977 the 7th Congress of that organisation in Amsterdam. With that successful congress, which was attended by more malacologists than ever before during previous congresses, malacology in The Netherlands was put on the map in an impressive way. Dolf's international contacts resulted in many publications with friends, like "World-wide snails, Biogeographical studies on non-marine Mollusca", the first book on non-marine molluscan biogeography (Solem & van Bruggen,

1984), indicating the status of molluscan biogeographical work in those days.

Resulting from his fascination for Mollusca and Africa, Dolf's knowledge of African malacology was profound and recognised. Herbert & Kilburn (2004) dedicated their beautiful handbook on the land snails of Eastern South Africa to the three pioneers of South African terrestrial malacology, Henry Burnup, Matthew Connolly, and Dolf van Bruggen. With a group of students of Afrotropical malacology, Dolf took the initiative for the foundation of "Achatina", a free newsletter of Afrotropical non-marine malacology. Together with J.J. Van Mol, Dolf formed the editorial board of the first nine issues. When the Tervuren museum was forced to stop financing the newsletter, Dolf took it to Leiden, and alone produced four more issues. The content of the 13 issues (1970-1985) of the newsletter mostly consists of bibliographies of authors and other lists of publications on Afrotropical and Madagascan non-marine mollusca, as well as lists of snails from various geographic areas. Such information was (and still is) not easily accessible.

On the occasion of his 80th birthday, a *Festschrift* was published as a volume of the Leiden museum journal *Zoologische Mededelingen* (Breure et al., 2009), which includes a biography of his life and work (Breure, Smeenk & de Winter, 2009). The lines below summarise and supplement this paper.

After completing his study, Dolf fulfilled his military service (1956-1957) in the Grenadiers Regiment. In 1956 he married Wenda Gorter, who was born on Java. He and Wenda had originally planned to go to the former Dutch East Indies, but this became problematic in the years following Indonesia's independence. Instead, they decided to move to South Africa, where they stayed from 1957 to 1966. Here Dolf was employed as Assistant Professional Officer for the Ministry of Agriculture at Pretoria (1957-1960), first as Fruit Fly Research Officer, thereafter as Taxonomist in charge of the Diptera and Lepidoptera. In 1959 he took part in the Eastern Escarpment Expedition and in an insect survey of the Kruger Park. In 1960-1961 he worked as Marine Biologist in charge of the Oceanarium at the Museum, Snake Park & Oceanarium, Port Elizabeth. In 1962 Dolf took up the position of Curator of Molluscs at the Natal Museum in Pietermaritzburg, being the museum's "first professionally trained and salaried malacologist" (Herbert & Kilburn, 2004). Here Wenda could work as a librarian, joining Dolf during fieldwork. Until 1966, they took part in seven collection trips (a.o. to Kruger Park, Northern Zululand and the Drakensberg), and also undertook private collection trips. This period of time, being surrounded by the impressive diversity of the African wildlife, has decidedly influenced their further life and interests.

Malacology	168
Entomology	18
Zoos	81
Various	16
Other	414
Total	697

**Table 1.** Total number of publications by A.C. van Bruggen, divided into malacology, entomology, zoos, various (a.o. botany), and other (a.o. non-scientific malacological contributions, book reviews).

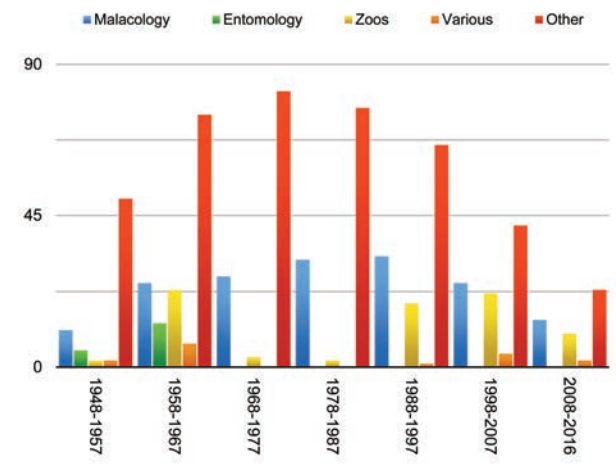
The decision to return to The Netherlands in 1966, will have been a difficult one. The division Systematic Zoology at Leiden University had asked Dolf to take over the teaching in systematic zoology for the undergraduates, and he had accepted.

Not everybody realised in those days that Dolf was officially employed by Leiden University, not by the Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie (now Naturalis Biodiversity Center), where he had his office. He supervised students that did internships in systematic zoology in that museum. At Leiden University, he showed to be an excellent, inspiring teacher. Dolf larded his lectures with a unique sense of gentle humour, which made his Systematic Zoology courses unusually popular among students.

As a malacologist, Dolf worked mainly on Afrotropical non-marine snails, but his interest and knowledge was much wider. Few people living today have seen Dolf snail hunting in the field, since after the 1960's he did field work almost exclusively in Africa: South Africa, Zululand, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and especially Malawi, which country he visited trice (1988, 1990, 1993) and to the malacofauna of which he dedicated a substantial proportion of his output.

#### MALACOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

A summary analysis of his work needs to start with his papers. Better than words can describe, the complete list of his publications, which is available at [www.spirula.nl](http://www.spirula.nl) in the "Supplementary information to Basteria" section, shows Dolf's impressive scientific production. The time span of publication is 69 years and his list totals up to 697 publications, varying from single leaflets to monographs; his publica-



**Fig. 2.** Analysis of the total publications by A.C. van Bruggen, divided into seven bins, and arranged according to the categories malacology (blue), entomology (green), zoos (yellow), various (a.o. botany; orange), and other (a.o. non-scientific malacological contributions, book reviews; red).

tions cover a variety of subjects (Fig. 2; Table 1). After a short note on observations at the beach, his first malacological contribution (Van Bruggen, 1948) reported the finding of an (in the Netherlands) uncommon marine bivalve (*Anomia ephippium*). Very many publications followed, showing increasingly clear a preference for Africa and terrestrial molluscs, among which in particular the pulmonate carnivorous family Streptaxidae. At the same time insects, plants, birds and especially mammals and zoos, were not neglected, and in all his work Dolf showed a fascination for historical aspects. Here we have listed the malacological publications only:

- 1950. Een merkwaardige afzetting van landmollusken in de Slufter op Texel. – *Basteria* 14: 60-62, fig. 1.
- 1951. Biologische aantekeningen van een reis naar Zwitserland. – *De Levende Natuur* 54: 131-134, figs 1-3.
- 1952a. Notes on South African marine Mollusca 1. *Philobrya angulata* (Sow.), an interesting species of the family Limopsidae. 2. A collection from Jeffrey's Bay. – *Basteria* 16: 6-24, figs 1-3, pl. 1.
- 1952b. *Pupilla sterri* in Vorarlberg. – *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 81: 179.
- 1953. Overzicht van de schelpdragende mollusken verzameld in 1951 tijdens de botanische excursie van het Rijksherbarium in Frankrijk, département du Haut Rhin. – *Basteria* 17: 1-8.
- 1954a. Naaktslakken verzameld in 1951 in het département du

- Haut Rhin, Frankrijk. – *Basteria* 18: 22-24.
- 1954b. Notes on South African marine Mollusca 3. Some remarks on species of *Sunetta* and *Donax*. – *Basteria* 18: 49-53, fig. 1.
1955. *Lymnaea columella* Say und *Zonitoides arboreus* (Say) in den Gewächshäusern des Basler Botanischen Gartens (Moll., Gastr., Pulm.). – *Verhandlungen der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Basel* 66: 1-4, figs 1-3.
1956. *Pyrene sorongensis*, a new mollusk (Gastropoda, Prosobranchia) from West New Guinea. – *Nova Guinea (N.S.)* 7: 11-14, fig. 1.
- 1957a. Notes on some land and freshwater Mollusca from Auvergne, France. – *Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden* 35: 9-20, figs 1-2.
- 1957b. New data on recent Dutch Mollusca, a critical compilation I. – *Basteria* 21: 46-52.
- 1957c. New data on recent Dutch Mollusca, a critical compilation II. – *Basteria* 21: 74-82.
- 1961a. Notes on South African marine Mollusca 4. A new variety of *Pecten sulcicostatus*. – *Basteria* 25: 31-32, pl. 1.
- 1961b. *Pelamis platurus*, an unusual item of food of *Octopus* spec. – *Basteria* 25: 73-74.
- 1962a. Notes on South African marine Mollusca 5. Mollusca from the McArthur Bath, Port Elizabeth, South Africa. – *Journal of Conchology* 25: 59-63.
- 1962b. Notes on South African marine Mollusca 6. *Thysanoteuthis rhombus* (Cephalopoda) in Algoa Bay. – *Annals of the Natal Museum* 15: 267-272, figs. 1-3, pls II-III.
- 1963a. On a sinistral specimen of *Afristreptaxis elongatus* (Mollusca, Gastropoda, Pulmonata) from South Africa. – *Revue Zoologie Botanique Africaines* 67: 17-19, fig. 1.
- 1963b. *Sculptaria edlingeri* Connolly oder *Sculptaria namaquensis* Zilch? – Notiz über das Veröffentlichungsdatum der Monographie Connolly's. – *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 92: 80.
- 1963c. Report on the Mollusca of the 1961 Harvard-Smithsonian-Transvaal Museum Kalahari Expedition. – *Annals of the Transvaal Museum* 24: 261-270, figs 1-5, pl. XLIII.
- 1963d. A re-examination of the types of recent Mollusca of the Port Elizabeth Museum. – *Annals of the Cape Provincial Museums* 3: 75-81, figs 1-6.
- 1964a. On the distribution of the genus *Xerocerastus* Kobelt & Von Möllendorff, 1902 (Mollusca, Gastropoda Pulmonata, Subulinidae). – *Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden* 39 (Feestbundel H. Boschma): 224-234, figs 1-2.
- 1964b. Das Veröffentlichungsdatum der Monographie Connolly's: eine Ergänzung. – *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 93: 169-170.
- 1964c. On some molluscs from Mount Gorongosa, Portuguese East Africa, with descriptions of two new streptaxids. – *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* 70: 113-122, figs 1-7.
- 1964d. The distribution of introduced mollusc species in Southern Africa. – *Beaufortia* 11 (144) (Feestbundel W.S.S. van der Feen-van Benthem Jutting): 161-169, figs 1-3.
- 1965a. Two new species of Achatinidae (Mollusca, Gastropoda Pulmonata) from the Drakensberg Range, with general remarks on Southern African Achatinidae. – *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* 71: 79-91, figs 1-11.
- 1965b. (A.C. van Bruggen & B. Verdcourt) *Trachycystis* (*Dendrotrichia*) *sylvicola*, a new subgenus and species from Rhodesia (Mollusca, Gastropoda Pulmonata: Endodontidae). – *Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden* 40: 219-224, figs 1-3, pl. 1.
- 1965c. Preservation of molluscs, and storage and maintenance of malacological study collections. – *South African Museums Association Bulletin* 8: 209-213.
- 1965d. Descriptions of three new species of *Gulella* (Mollusca, Gastropoda Pulmonata: Streptaxidae) from South Africa. – *Annals of the Natal Museum* 18: 21-26, figs 1-6.
- 1966a. *Physa acuta*, an introduced species new to South Africa. – *Journal of Conchology* 26: 49-50.
- 1966b. Two new species of *Gulella* from Southern Africa (Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Streptaxidae). – *Archiv für Molluskenkunde* 95: 69-73, figs 1-4.
- 1966c. A note on *Lamellaria mauritiana* (Gastropoda Prosobranchia) in South Africa (Notes on South African marine Mollusca 7). – *Basteria* 30: 15-17, figs 1-5.
- 1966d. Notes on a damaged shell of *Cypraea carneola* L. (Notes on South African marine Mollusca 8). – *Basteria* 30: 35-37, fig. 1, pl. 2.
- 1966e. The terrestrial Mollusca of the Kruger National Park: a contribution to the malacology of the Eastern Transvaal. – *Annals of the Natal Museum* 18: 315-399, figs 1-70.
- 1966f. Notes on non-marine molluscs from Mozambique and Bechuanaland with a checklist of Bechuanaland species. – *Annals of the Transvaal Museum* 25: 99-111, figs 1-3, pl. 10.
- 1966g. On a new species of *Pseudoglessula* (Mollusca, Gastropoda) from South Africa. – *Revue de Zoologie et de Botanique Africaines* 74: 342-346, fig. 1.
- 1967a. An introduction to the pulmonate family Streptaxidae. – *Journal of Conchology* 26: 181-188, figs 1-7.
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Dolf was author in the era when co-authoring was still rather exceptional, and a sign of intense collaboration. Especially in the 1970s and 1990s co-authors appear in his publication list, although most of them only once. His most frequented co-authors were J.L. van Goethem (9 papers), followed by B. Verdcourt and A.J. de Winter (both 4), W. Adam (3), and E. Gittenberger (3). As has been remarked previously (Breure et al., 2009: 514), most of Dolf's molluscan work was on the land molluscs of Subsaharan Africa. His Studies on the Streptaxidae of Malaŵi, of which a series of 13 papers appeared, together with his other publications on African molluscs (a total of 1609 pages), certainly gives him a place on the list of major malacologists who worked on Subsaharan African molluscs (van Bruggen, 2012: 144).

Looking to the new taxa which he described, we present first a supplement to Breure et al. (2009) Appendix 2, which listed the new taxa introduced up to 2009; this list follows the same structure.

*annibiodiversitatis* van Bruggen, 2011, *Gulella*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 85: 850, Malawi, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Streptaxidae).

*crux* van Bruggen, 2011, *Gulella*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 85: 856, Malawi, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Streptaxidae).

*menkhorsti* van Bruggen, 2011, *Gulella*, Zoologische Mededelin-

gen, Leiden 85: 854, Malawi, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Streptaxidae).

*misaliensis* Gittenberger & van Bruggen, 2013, *Afrripupa*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 87: 244, Tanzania, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Gastrocoptidae).

*misaliensis* Gittenberger & van Bruggen, 2013, *Pupisoma (Ptychopatulula)*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 87: 247, Tanzania, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Gastrocoptidae).

*nuchalis* van Bruggen, 2011, *Gulella*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 85: 859, Malawi, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Streptaxidae).

Prestonellinae van Bruggen, Herbert & Breure, 2016, type genus *Prestonella* Connolly, 1929, Zootaxa 4084: 590 (Stylommatophora, Bothriembryontidae).

*proxima* van Bruggen, 2014, *Gulella*, Basteria 78: 53, Malawi, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Streptaxidae).

*rowsoni* Gittenberger & van Bruggen, 2013, *Microcystina*, Zoologische Mededelingen, Leiden 87: 262, Tanzania, RMNH (Stylommatophora, Euconulidae).

His new molluscan taxa cover a broad range of families in two biogeographical areas, Africa and Asia (Table 2).

We have found no new eponyms additional to those listed in Breure et al. (2009) Appendix 1. Thus in total 22 taxa have been named after Dolf, of which seven belonging to Insecta and 15 to Mollusca.

	Africa	Asia
Streptaxidae	71	4
Maizaniidae	11	
Achatinidae	6	
Subulinidae	5	
Cyclophoridae	3	
Euconulidae	3	
Urocyclidae	3	
Cerastidae	2	
Bothriembryontidae	1	
Charopidae	1	
Gastrocoptidae	1	
Orculidae	1	
Pectinidae	1	
Punctidae	1	
Sculptariidae	1	
Vertiginidae	1	
Ariophantidae		1
Columbellidae		1

**Table 2.** New taxa described by A.C. van Bruggen, divided to families and zoogeographical realms.



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