

In memoriam Dr Jacob van der Land (1935-2011), late marine biologist at the Leiden Museum (1964-2000)

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Zool. Med. Leiden 86 (5), 14.xii.2012: 505-514, figs 1-7. — ISSN 0024-0672.

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Key words: Protista; Platyhelminthes; Priapulida; Annelida; Vestimentifera; Tardigrada; taxonomy; marine biology; oceanography; history of zoology.

Dr Jacob van der Land (1935-2011), curator of Vermes and chief marine biologist (1964-2000) in the National Museum of Natural History, Leiden (initially Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie, now part of Naturalis Biodiversity Center) acted as leader of several major marine expeditions in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and in Indonesia. He was also involved in the national and international organisation of marine research. In the museum he made a name as a helminthologist (working and publishing on Protista, Platyhelminthes, Priapulida, Annelida, Vestimentifera, and Tardigrada) and computer pioneer. One of his other major achievements was organizing the move of the museum from the old building in the centre of Leiden to the newly erected complex on the edge of the city. This concise obituary features a list of Van der Land's publications after 2000, which were not included in an earlier description of his life (Van Bruggen, 2001), as well as lists of new taxa described by Van der Land and of eponyms.

Marine biologist and helminthologist Dr Jacob [Jaap] van der Land died on 23 October 2011 in Wassenaar after a long illness. He spent his whole professional life (1964-2000) in the then Rijksmuseum van Natuurlijke Historie/National Museum of Natural History (now part of Naturalis Biodiversity Center), initially only as Curator of Vermes, later also as head of the Department of Evertibrata non-Insecta (responsible for its research and collections), and co-ordinator of the museum's marine research. When he retired in 2000, the museum published a special issue of the *Zoologische Verhandelingen* (Den Hartog, ed., 2001) in his honour. In that volume the senior author described Van der Land's life and work (Van Bruggen, 2001), which is recapitulated here in concise form. Born on 4 April 1935 in Kollum (Province of Friesland), he obtained his Ph.D. (Leiden University) in 1970 on a thesis on the Priapulida; his thesis supervisor was Prof. L.D. Brongersma, director of the museum at that time. Van der Land had joined the museum staff in 1964 in order to fill the new position of Curator of Vermes. Here he successfully worked on various groups of worms *sensu lato*, but his attention soon switched to more general biodiversity studies in marine biology, initially in Europe, but later mainly in the tropics, both in the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. Later he took over leadership of the invertebrate department (excluding insects) of the museum and he was also charged with organizing all marine research. He successfully served as leader of a large number of major marine research expeditions, most of which involved a research vessel and an international group of participants.

Van der Land greatly influenced marine biodiversity research in The Netherlands by participating in its planning and management on a national scale. Thanks to him, the museum has acquired a national and international reputation with regard to marine research, with a clear emphasis on invertebrate taxonomy and marine biodiversity. Since he co-organized the Coral Reef theme of the Indonesian-Dutch Snellius-II Expedition (1984-1985), he became increasingly interested in the concept of coral reefs, about which he published some papers (Van der Land, 1989, 1997). The biodiversity of Indonesian coral reefs kept his interest, for which he maintained good relationships with colleagues of the Research Centre for Oceanography of the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI). His last expeditions were based at LIPI's field stations at Ambon in the Moluccas (1994) and Bitung in North Sulawesi (1996). During these expeditions specimens were mainly sampled by scientists for their own research with less emphasis on building large collections for the scientific community as a whole. Organizing scientific expeditions was one of the strong qualities of Van der Land, although he did not take samples for his own research. However, recently it became clear that the large natural history collections obtained during expeditions under leadership of Van der Land are not only relevant for our knowledge of taxonomic diversity and biogeographical patterns of species richness, but also for obtaining base lines in order to distinguish changes in marine biota over time (Van der Land, 1977; Hoeksema et al., 2011).

Van der Land collaborated closely with some of the technicians and scientists in the departments of invertebrates and vertebrates of the Leiden Museum. For his research, he was assisted by Jack van Oyen who specialized in making slides for microscopic examinations. Chiel Slierings and Koos van Egmond offered logistic support during expeditions and their preparations. The scientists in the departments had their own specialties. While carrying out their research, they were not troubled by directives and interference by the expedition leader, who went to great lengths to facilitate their work. As expedition leader, Jacob van der Land was always keenly interested to learn about discoveries by the expedition participants. This new information was usually applied to the selection of new sampling stations.

In addition, Van der Land supervised the move of the museum from the old premises in the heart of Leiden to the newly erected complex at the edge of town (1996-1998). In the city centre, the museum had been housed in a purpose-built institute (its second location since the beginning in 1820) in the period 1913-1996. The move was a major operation, during which his talent for organization and management was used to the full. Also, as an early computer addict he saw to it that the museum was kept in the forefront of developments in this field.

After his retirement he continued working in the museum, mainly on various global data bases of marine organisms. The best known of these is URMO (the UNESCO-IOC Register of Marine Organisms), on which he started to work in the late 1990s and continued during his retirement. URMO was pioneering in being the first attempt to electronically list all known marine species, and subsequently built upon by ERMS (the European Marine Register of Marine Species) and WoRMS (the World Register of Marine Species (Costello et al., 2001; Van der Land, 2008; Appeltans et al., 2012). As a spin-off, Van der Land co-authored a list of stony coral species, his second most cited publication (Cairns et al., 1999).

As curator of 'worms' Van der Land worked and published on Protista, Platyhelminthes, Priapulida, Annelida, Vestimentifera, and Tardigrada. He particularly liked to

work on extremely small to microscopic animals of which the internal anatomy was usually studied in great detail. He was quite successful in applying various microtechniques, but sometimes things went wrong. Checking on his description of the Curaçao tardigrade *Florarctis antillensis* Van der Land (1968: 140), one reads “the paratype was lost”. The senior author distinctly remembers Van der Land telling his friends that he once lost a tardigrade type by inadvertent sneezing – that must have been the paratype of the species in question!

Probably Van der Land’s best and most valuable work was his detailed description of *Lamellibrachia luymesii*. For this he travelled to Copenhagen where he worked for an extended period in conjunction with his Danish colleague Arne Nørrevang, resulting in the major treatise by Van der Land & Nørrevang (1977). Here they studied and illustrated this particular worm in great detail, concluding that “The authors consider the Vestimentifera as well as the Pogonophora separate classes of the phylum Annelida.” Until that time these two groups had been considered deuterostomes close to the base of the chordates, although doubts had already been raised about this. Later their findings were corroborated by others.

Van der Land described 4 of all 10 known species of Priapulida. Few scientists are responsible for 40% of all species in a phylum; the equivalent in e.g., the Mollusca, would be 80.000 species.

On the occasion of his retirement he published a somewhat whimsical illustrated autobiography (Van der Land, 2000), showing himself to be a modest person and at the same time reflecting his sense of humor. Unfortunately this limited edition is only available in Dutch. Jaap van der Land, although a typical introvert from the northern parts of The Netherlands, was popular among his nearest colleagues and his views on marine problems were always worth considering. Van der Land’s humor was evident when he announced at an ERMS meeting that he had been in the museum collections for nearly 40 years, longer than many of the other specimens (Mark Costello, in litt. to Leen van Ofwegen, 11.ix.2012).

Appendix 2 collates all new taxa proposed by Van der Land, sometimes together with co-authors; it appears that he was responsible for 1 new family, 2 new genera, and 12 new species, all described from the marine environment. It is ironic for a scientist who made his mark on marine biology that his family name (to be translated as ‘from the land’) has a distinctly terrestrial flavour.

Acknowledgements

We are grateful to various local and foreign colleagues who contributed invaluable data for the above obituary. We thank three reviewers, Drs M. Costello, C.H.J.M. Franzen and C. Smeenk, for their constructive remarks on an earlier draft of the ms.

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Fig. 1. Dr J. van der Land debriefing navy divers during the Saba Bank Expedition (Dutch Caribbean, former Netherlands Antilles) as part of the CICAR programme (Cooperative Investigations in the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions) on board H.N.I.M.S. 'Luymes' in 1972.



Fig. 2. Dr J. van der Land discussing preliminary results and plans regarding coral reef surveys together with Prof. Dr. R. P.M. Bak during the Indonesian-Dutch Snellius-II Expedition in eastern Indonesia on board R.V. 'Tyro' in 1984 .



Fig. 3. Dr J. van der Land preparing for a diving exploration during CANCAP 7 Expedition in the East Atlantic on board H.N.I.M.S. 'Tydeman', 1986. Photograph Dr. R.W.M. van Soest.



Fig. 4. Dr J. van der Land taking samples from a beach on Ambon (Indonesia) during the LIPI-NNM Maluku Expedition in 1996.



Fig. 5. Dr J. van der Land relaxing over a modest lunch during the Ambon expedition in 1996, discussing results and logistics with Mr. J. van Egmond.



◀ Fig. 6. Dr J. van der Land, a fairly recent portrait (1998). Courtesy Mrs A. van der Land.

Fig. 7. A sample of signatures by Dr J. van der Land, collected by the second author from correspondence about expedition plans for Indonesia in 1996.

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Appendix 1

List of publications by J. van der Land not included in the 2001 list (Van Bruggen, 2001: 13-20).

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Appendix 2

New taxa introduced by J. van der Land (and co-authors), 1968-1977: Protista, Priapulida, Annelida, Vestimentifera, Tardigrada.

Chimaerohemecus Van der Land, 1967 (Trematoda; type species *Chimaerohemecus trondheimensis* Van der Land, 1967).

Chimaerohemecus trondheimensis Van der Land, 1967 (Trematoda; in fish *Chimaera monstrosa* L., 1758, Norway).

Florarctis antillensis Van der Land, 1968 (Tardigrada; Curaçao). The reference to the paper in question in Van Bruggen (2001: 14) is partly incorrect: the volume number should read 26 instead of 25.

Gyrocotyle abyssicola Van der Land & Templeman, 1968 [Monogenea; on fish *Hydrolagus affinis* (Brito Capello, 1868), Canada, off Labrador]

Gyrocotyle confusa Van der Land & Dienske, 1968 (Monogenea; on fish *Chimaera monstrosa* L., 1758, Norway).

Gyrocotyle major Van der Land & Templeman, 1968 [Monogenea; on fish *Hydrolagus affinis* (Brito Capello, 1868), Canada, off Labrador].

Lamellibrachia luymesii Van der Land & Nørrevang, 1975 (Vestimentifera; Guyana Shelf).

Pyxidium tardigradum Van der Land, 1964 [Protista, Ciliophora, Peritrichia; on tardigrade *Hypsibius oberhaeuseri* (Doyère, 1840), France].

Tubiluchidae Van der Land, 1970 (Priapulida).

Tubiluchus Van der Land, 1968 [Priapulida; type species *Tubiluchus corallicola* Van der Land, 1968].

Tubiluchus australensis Van der Land, 1985 (Priapulida: Australia, Great Barrier Reef).

Tubiluchus corallicola Van der Land, 1968 (Priapulida; Curaçao).

Tubiluchus philippinensis Van der Land, 1985 (Priapulida: Philippines, Cebu).

Tubiluchus remanei Van der Land, 1982 (Priapulida: Egypt, Red Sea).

Udonella papillifera Van der Land, 1967 [Monogenea; on fish *Euthynnus alleteratus* (Rafinesque, 1810), Ivory Coast].

Appendix 3

Eponyms, taxa named in honour of J. van der Land.

The following nine eponyms have been traced in the literature and on the internet. The list is probably not complete because of variation of naming – however, so far no taxa called *landi* have been found and also no latinized versions of both his Christian and family names.

Archiloha vanderlandi Martens & Curini-Galletti, 1989: 178 (Platyhelminthes: Turbellaria; Indonesia, near Sulawesi)

Eulimella vanderlandi Van Aartsen, Gittenberger & Goud, 2000: 5 (Mollusca: Gastropoda; Pyramidellidae; Cape Verde Is.)

Gofasia vanderlandi Bouchet & Warén, 1993: 668 (Mollusca: Gastropoda; Rissoidae; off Canary Is.)

Haliclona vanderlandi De Weerd & Van Soest, 2001: 190 (Porifera: Demospongiae; eastern Indonesia)

Leontocaris vanderlandi Fransen, 2001: 57 (Crustacea: Decapoda; Seychelles)

Myostenostomum vanderlandi Rogozin, 1992: 9 (Platyhelminthes: Turbellaria; Surinam)

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Received: 4.vii.2012

Accepted: 8.x.2012

Edited: L.P. van Ofwegen

Note added in proof

An article (in press) will be dedicated to J. van der Land by the steering committee of WoRMS because of his pioneering work on marine species databases:

Costello, M.J., P. Bouchet, G. Boxshall, K. Fauchald, D. Gordon, B.W. Hoeksema, G.C.B. Poore, R.W.M. van Soest, S. Stöhr, T.C. Walter, B. Vanhoorne, W. Decock & W. Appeltans. 2012. Global coordination and standardisation in marine biodiversity through the World Register of Marine Species (WoRMS) and related databases. PLoS ONE.