



Dr. Reinier Cornelis Bakhuizen van den Brink  
Photograph Ruth van Crevel, June 1976

## DR. BAKHUIZEN VAN DEN BRINK RETIRES

On 11 September 1976 dr. Reinier Cornelis Bakhuizen van den Brink will reach the age of 65 and so he must retire from his position as a senior botanist at the Rijksherbarium. He has worked in our institute since December 1943, after having obtained his doctor's degree in Utrecht.

At the Rijksherbarium he became heavily involved in the preparation of the so-called 'emergency edition' of C. A. Backer's *Beknopte Flora van Java*, which was mimeographed during the war in order to restrict the chances of destruction of Backer's valuable manuscripts. When after the war it was decided to translate Backer's concise flora into English and to update and complete it, he gradually took over the burden from Backer who in 1945 was already over seventy. As a consequence the *Flora of Java*, published in three parts between 1963 and 1968, bears both names as authors on the title-page. Quite appropriately too, seeing that he devoted so much of his time, energy, and knowledge to this piece of work.

Bakhuizen's activities have, however, not been restricted to the flora of Java, the island where he was born and which he left after having finished secondary school. Indirectly, through many discussions and various kinds of assistance to the members of the *Flora Malesiana* team, he has contributed to this larger flora too.

One of the fields in which he always willingly gave help, is the field of nomenclature. Aided by an extensive knowledge of the older and newer botanical literature, and by his interest in the rules of nomenclature, he became a source of information for the entire staff of the Rijksherbarium, especially for the group on Tropical Phanerogams. His interest in nomenclature also led to his appointment as a member of I.A.P.T.'s Committee for Spermatophyta, a position he held for many years.

Most of all, I think, we at the Rijksherbarium will remember him for his astonishing knowledge of the Asiatic higher plants. Not many are the times that he has not been able to find the answer to the question: What is the name of this plant? And this is certainly not restricted to the *Rubiaceae*, the family to which he is especially committed. We hope that his revision of *Neonauclea* will soon be ready for the press since that paper will, together with the generic key he produced during his year as a visiting professor at Aarhus university, be a lasting monument of the many years of accumulating experience and knowledge of this large plant family.

We trust that his retirement will not put a stop to his willingness of letting others share his expert knowledge. We will make an appeal to him many times and we are confident that he will respond in his usual unselfish way.

C. KALKMAN