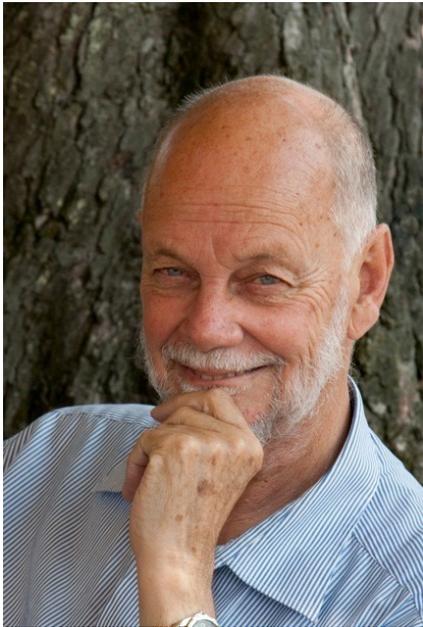


Feddo Hans Frits Oldenburger

An outline of his life



Feddo Hans Frits Oldenburger (Sanga Sanga Dalam, East Borneo, Dutch East Indies, 1 July 1937 - Rhenen, 22 November 2017) was a Dutch biologist, who dedicated his life to botanical scientific research in the tropics (Suriname, Brazil, Indonesia) as well as to nature conservation in the Netherlands

Early years

Oldenburger's youth and war years in the tropics were decisive for his further life and career choices.

Oldenburger was born on the Equator, in the village of Sanga Sanga Dalam (East Borneo), in the delta of the Mahakam River. January 1942 Japan attacked the island Tarakan off the coast of North Borneo; the KNIL (Royal Dutch East Indies Army) capitulated in early March 1942. By the end of that year five-year-old Feddo, together with

his mother and sister, was confined to the Tjihapit internment camp in Bandung; whereas his father was detained in a prisoner of war camp along the Burma-Siam Railway. Oldenburger spent the last months of the war in Batavia, in camp St. Vincent and in camp Kampong Makassar.

During the war years he did not attend school. At the beginning of 1946 he arrived in The Netherlands, where he attended different primary schools (on the island of Texel and in Hilversum), until the family returned to their former home in Indonesia. In 1947 he returned to the primary school in Sanga Sanga Dalam, which he had attended before the war, together with Indonesian children.

In 1949 Oldenburger returned to the Netherlands for his high school education (Institute Hommes in Hoogezand). In 1957 he obtained his diploma gymnasium β at the Montessori Lyceum Herman Jordan in Zeist.

After high school he enrolled in Rijksuniversiteit Utrecht (later Universiteit Utrecht) to study biology, graduating in 1967 (doctorandus degree). It soon became clear that the tropics were his preferred work area.

Research Projects

Tropical research continued to be Oldenburger's area of focus, and he participated in the following academic study projects:

- *phytogeography* (vegetation survey of the dunes of Voorne) with prof. J. Lanjouw;
- *soil science* (soil research in the Argonne area / Lorraine) with Prof. F.A. van Baaren
- *ethology* (research into the behavior of two groups of Java monkeys (*Macaca irus*) in 'Free Cage' conditions, with prof. J.A.R.A.M. van Hooff;

Oldenburger furthermore gained a certificate in aerial photography interpretation, with prof. I.S. Zonneveld (ITC in Enschede), and he took courses in Brazilian Portuguese and Bahasa



Indonesia.

Impression of the Sipaliwini landscape, drawn by Feddo Oldenburger

In 1968 Oldenburger was appointed at ZWO (later NWO) -WOTRO (Scientific Research Foundation of the Tropics), to study the flora and vegetation of Sipaliwini savannah in South Suriname and to collect plants for the Herbarium / UU. Additional expeditions were undertaken between 1970 and 1972

The results of these field studies were presented in a scientific report and on the website www.sipaliwinisavanna.com.

After his work on the Sipaliwini Oldenburger was employed at Utrecht University, with the aim to found a department of Landscape Ecology. From 1975 onwards Oldenburger worked with Prof. George Eiten at the Universidade de Brasilia on the Cerrado Vegetation of Brasil Project.

Nature conservation

Throughout his life, Oldenburger remained involved in conservation of nature and landscape. From 1980 he worked from home as an independent scholar on various projects in the region. Long-term projects involved the preservation of the landscape and cultural heritage of Vijfheerenlanden; the conservation of the Koornwaard nature reserve (Heukelum); the Landscape plan Tielerswaard-West; the preservation of the Vurense Uiterwaarden.

Professional Memberships

Oldenburg's interests are also apparent from his long-standing memberships of the UBV (Utrecht Biologists Association), where he co-founded the *Kiemblad for Biologen* journal. As

a member of the UBV camp committee he furthermore organized a biological camp on the island Ameland. Other memberships include the NIBI (Dutch Institute for Biology / Bio News); the Democrats 66 political party; the Vereniging Natuurmonumenten; the Vereniging Lingelandschap; the NWG (Natural Sciences Company Wageningen); the Tong Tong Foundation (the oldest Indonesian cultural organization of The Netherlands) / KJBB (Association of Children from the Japanese Occupation and the Bersiap). Finally, Oldenburger was advisor of the Natural Science Study Circle for Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles.

Publications

In chronological order, (in part to be found at Wageningen University Library). For digital publications see: www.sipaliwinisavanna.com

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, *Een globale vegetatiekartering van de duinen van Voorne*, rapport 1963.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, *Een beschrijving van een onderzoek naar het gedrag van 2 groepen Java-ape (Macaca iris) onder 'vrije' kooi-omstandigheden*, rapport 1965.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, *Biologics*, 1966-1967, private edition, containing biological-philosophical thoughts.

1966 *Biologics*:

nr. 1 The 'catch' or 'introducing New China.

nr. 2 (Evolunatics I). 'De wereld draait zoals wij dat willen' (Galileo Galilei).

nr. 3 Critics.

nr. 4 Critics on Critics.

nr. 5 (Evolunatics II). Sequel to E.1.

nr. 6 Biopolitics I.

nr. 7 Biopolitics II.

nr. 8 Evolunatics III.

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nr. 10 Cogistics.

nr. 11 Evolunatics IV.

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nr. 12 / 1967 *UBV Kiemblad*, jrg. 1, nr. 1, De jacht op het punt 'nul'.

nr. 13 De Noordzee Confederatie.

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* Tetsuo Koyama and Feddo H.F. Oldenburger, 'Diplacrum africanum newly found in tropical America' in: *Rhodora* 73 (1971), p. 159-160.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, R. Norde and H.T. Riezebos, *Ecological investigations on the vegetation of the Sipaliwini-savanna area (Southern Surinam)*, Rapport 1973.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, 'Het savanneprobleem en de Sipaliwini savanne in Suriname (Z-Am.) in het licht van de algemene Biostasie-Rhexistasie theorie' in: *Berichten Fysisch Geografische Afdeling* (1973), p. 2-11. Portuguese and English translations: 'El problema de las sabanas y de la Sabana de Sipaliwini en al Surinam (America del Sul) a la luz de la

teoria Universal Biostasia-Rhexistasia' en 'The savanna problem and the Sipaliwini-savanna in Surinam (S. America) in view of the general Biostasy-Rhexistasy Theory'.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger en R. Norde, *200 Sipaliwini-savanne planten*, Private edition 1973.

* George Eiten et al. [F.H.F Oldenburger, R. Norde en H.T. Riezebos], 'Delimitation of the cerrado concept' in: *Vegetatio*, 1978, vol. 36 (3), p. 169-178.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, *Landschapsplan Tielerswaard-West*, rapport 1982.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, 'Dit vinden wij ervan: reacties van insprekers op de evaluatie van het Streekplan Zuid-Holland Oost', 1983.

* F.H.F. Oldenburger, J.G.W.J. Eilerts de Haan, Marga C.M. Werkhoven en C.C. Käyser, 'Algemene inleiding op de Toemak-Hoemak-, Suriname- en Corantijn-expeditie van resp. 1907, 1908 en 1910-1911'; gevolgd door een samenvatting van de Suriname-expeditie van 1908; 'In Memoriam Baas Schmidt van Gansee (1898-1992); een samenvatting van de Corantijn-expeditie van 1910-1911' (2 delen); 'Korte biografie van Luitenant C.C. Käyser'. Private edition 2014.

* R. Norde and F.H.F. Oldenburger, Website Sipaliwini Savanna

Feddo Hans Frits Oldenburger passed away on November 22, 2017. On January 5, 2018, his legacy with respect to the Sipaliwini savannah, in the form of books, reports, documents, manuscripts, (aerial) photos, vegetation maps and slides, partly was transferred to the Leiden 'Naturalis Biodiversity Center', partly to the Utrecht University / Copernicus Institute.

For a more extensive biography (in dutch), see <https://www.oldenburgers.nl/2018/01/20/korte-biografie-feddo-hans-frits-oldenburger-1937-2017/>

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