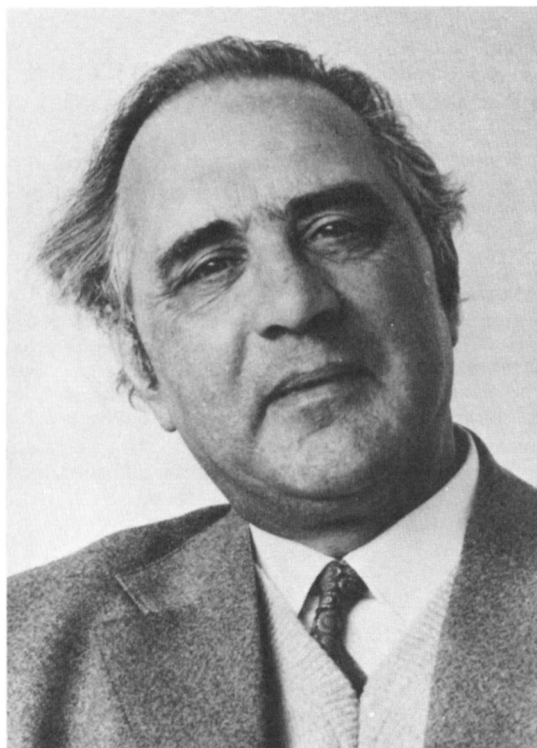


## OBITUARY



Professor Jan de Wilde  
(1916–1983)

Professor Jan de Wilde unexpectedly passed away on 5 October 1983. Entomology has lost one of its devoted scientists, and his many friends, colleagues and students in The Netherlands as well as abroad will miss an inspiring personality.

De Wilde studied biology at the University of Amsterdam with J. ten Cate and S. Leefmans. In 1954 he accepted the chair of Entomology at the Agricultural University in Wageningen. Until his retirement in 1982, his research was focussed on questions of how organisms translate environmental signals into appropriate physiological and behavioural reactions. When analysing the endocrine chain of events which govern diapause in the Colorado potato beetle, his preferred experimental insect, he found that inactivity of the corpora allata leads to diapause in the adult insect. These findings have enlarged our insights on the phenomenon of diapause considerably, especially because several related physiological processes, such as photoperiodicity, behaviour, the role of nutritional factors, reproduction and geographical variations were studied in considerable detail.

De Wilde's basic research was inspired by his wonderment of nature. Coincidental to his scientific interest, he never forgot the human principles of his youth, which stimulated his activities in the applica-

tion of science. He was one of the initiators and, for many years, the motor of an extensive integrated control research programme in The Netherlands, which was started as early as 1959. De Wilde was a gifted teacher and many Ph.D. students and postdoctorals from all over the world chose to work under his stimulating guidance. His firm belief that mankind is essentially one family, which is artificially divided by national borders, has nourished his striving to carry out the message of science and entomological knowledge to many places. The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) in Nairobi received his special attention and, since the memorandum of association of the ICIPE was signed in 1972 in Wageningen, de Wilde took many efforts to stimulate its growth and central position in basic and applied entomology in Africa.

Jan de Wilde, a devoted scientist and an amiable and many faceted personality leaves many friends all over the world. They owe much to him.

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