

In memoriam of Dr Marie Beatrice Schol-Schwarz



Dr Marie Beatrice Schol-Schwarz
12 July 1898 – 27 July 1969

Mrs Schol- known to her colleagues as Béa Schwarz – was born in Djakarta. She graduated in Biology at the University of Utrecht in 1922. Her doctoral thesis dealt with the Dutch elm disease, which was then taking heavy toll. She discovered the causal fungus and described it as *Graphium ulmi* n.sp. After joining the Agricultural Research Station at Bogor, she studied the bacterial wilt of the groundnut, *Arachis hypogaea*, selecting resistant strains. A report prepared in 1927 was not published until 1950. Meanwhile these strains were generally adopted in Java, in particular the 'Schwarz 21'. The selections have also been used for breeding work in Surinam and other countries.

In 1926 she married and withdrew from research. After her husband had died in wartime, she and her two sons returned to the Netherlands, where she joined the staff of the "Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures" at Baarn. Here she studied various groups of fungi and carried out research for industries, for example on

the deterioration of fabrics under tropical conditions. Later she wrote a monograph on the genus *Epicoccum*. After retiring she studied the genus *Phialophora*, including the pathogenic "black yeasts". Her publication on this subject was widely appreciated. While continuing this research the state of her health declined rapidly. Notwithstanding her illness she continued her work and almost completed a second manuscript on *Phialophora*. Shortly before her death she was appointed "Officier in de Orde van Oranje Nassau" in acknowledgment of her scientific merits.

We remember Béa Schol-Schwarz with respect and admiration as an excellent research worker, a good mother and a charming hostess.

L. C. P. Kerling