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**Phylogenetic and taxonomic studies in *Macaranga*,
Mallotus and other acalyphoid genera (Euphorbiaceae s.s.)**

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Kristo Kulju was born on 13 May 1973 in Viitasaari, Central Finland. He completed his matriculation examination at Viitasaari upper secondary school in 1992. In 1994, he started studying biology in the University of Helsinki, subsequently specializing in systematic-ecologic botany. Additionally, he conducted minor studies in plant physiology, biochemistry, genetics and general biology and had a summer traineeship in the department of Plant Physiology, studying the ligninolytic enzymes in the wood rotting fungus *Heterobasidion annosum*. Later, during the MSc research period, he also was a research assistant in the laboratory of Population Genetics to develop genetic markers for silver birch (*Betula pendula*) to be used for genome mapping and population studies. Kristo's MSc thesis concerned the molecular phylogeny of birches (genus *Betula*). During the last stage of his studies he also worked as a research assistant at the Botanical Museum of the Finnish Museum of Natural History (H). Furthermore, he assisted various courses in botany and genetics and was active in the student organizations Symbioosi r.y. and Keski-suomalainen Osakunta. Kristo's MSc studies were completed in October 2001 with the grade 'excellent knowledge'.

In April 2002 Kristo was appointed as an 'Assistant in Opleiding' at the Leiden Branch of the Nationaal Herbarium Nederland (NHN-L). His PhD research, conducted under the supervision of promotor prof. Pieter Baas and co-promotor dr. Peter van Welzen, concerned the phylogeny and systematics of *Macaranga*, *Mallotus* and other acaulphoid genera in the angiosperm family Euphorbiaceae s.s. The results of the research are presented in this thesis. During his PhD studies Kristo did field work at Thailand and presented his results in several international congresses, including the 6th Flora Malesiana Symposium in Los Banos, Philippines (2004) and the 7th International Botanical Congress in Vienna, Austria (2005). At FM VI he also functioned as the chair of the molecular phylogenetics session. Furthermore, Kristo was active in the NHN Staff Association (PV), and assisted the courses *Survey of the Diversity of the Plant Kingdom* and *The International Course on Economic Botany*. He also supervised the MSc research of Marcela Aparicio, a student of the PITA group of NHN-L.

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