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

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# STELLINGEN

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

van Kristo K.M. Kulju

(1) *Macaranga* is a monophyletic genus; *Mallotus* s.l. is not.

(*This thesis*)

(2) As morphologically and ecologically rather similar sister genera, *Macaranga* and *Mallotus* s.s. differ remarkably in their species richness, molecular evolutionary rates and biogeographical patterns.

(*This thesis*)

(3) The evolutionary relationships within the *Mallotus* s.s. clade largely remain a conundrum.

(*This thesis*)

(4) The different measures of clade support and their implementations in phylogenetic software packages are a more complicated issue than is often thought.

(*This thesis*)

(5) A comparison between the currently used classification system of uniovulate euphorbs (Euphorbiaceae s.s.) and recent molecular phylogenetic studies shows that relying only on macromorphological and palynological characters can be very misleading.

(*Webster, 1994b; Wurdack et al., 2005; this thesis*)

(6) Rhinoceroses do eat the fruits and disperse the seeds of *Mallotus nudiflorus*, but this mutualism is probably not as tight and as vital for the tree as Sir David claims.

(*Dinerstein & Wemmer, 1998; Attenborough, 1995 [The private life of plants, Episode 1 – Travelling, BBC]*)

(7) *Macaranga* is a suitable study subject for the travelling naturalist, even for those too busy to slam the brakes.

(*Whitmore, 1965*)

(8) To survive a PhD in the Netherlands, two competent therapists are a bare minimum.

(*Personal observation*)

(9) Coots have funny feet.

(*Wildlife observations along the cycling path to the herbarium*)