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The Impact of Supplementary Food on a Prey-Predator Interaction

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Citation for published version (APA):

van Rijn, P. C. J. (2002). *The Impact of Supplementary Food on a Prey-Predator Interaction*. in eigen beheer.

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About the author

Paul Cornelis Jacobus van Rijn was born on 20 April 1958 in Vlaardingen. In 1977 he finished his preparatory scientific education (VWO) at the Spieringshoek secondary school in Schiedam. The same year he left home and started to study Biology at the Leiden University. During his masters he choose for disciplines at the individual and the population level, such as behavior, systematics and ecology, with geology and mathematics as subdisciplines. He regularly attended the biological excursions organized by student club 'Sacculina' and became a floristic expert. During his study he was active at a political party and (later) at Friends of the Earth (Milieudefensie) and at the Science Shop of Leiden University. He specialized in Environmental Sciences and had his research training in Environmental Biology (on the effects of fertilization and ditch cleaning on the flora and fauna of ditches, with W.J. ter Keurs) and in Population Biology (population-dynamical modeling of mites in orchards, with Dr. Mous Sabelis).

As a result of the last research training he could start in 1988 as Junior Researcher (OIO) at the University of Amsterdam, where Dr M.W. Sabelis had become leader of the section Population Biology. The research was on 'Biological control of thrips in greenhouse vegetables: the influence of alternative food on the interaction between predatory mites and thrips' and was funded the Technical Science Foundation (STW).

During this project he cooperated with Dr. Lynell Tanigoshi from Washington State University who in 1992? came to Amsterdam for his sabbatical and who introduced new predatory mite species for the biological control of western flower trips. After finishing the project he developed a rearing method for one of these predators (*Iphiseius degenerans*) in commission of Ciba Bunting BC Ltd. Subsequently, he had a position as Visiting Associate in Research for half a year at the Washington State University (Research and Extension Unit in Vancouver, WA) where he worked with Dr Lynell Tanigoshi on the life history and pesticide resistance of this and other predatory mite species (funded by the Washington State Department of Agriculture).

In 1996, shortly before the birth of his son Niels, he returned as part-time researcher at the Population Biology section of the University of Amsterdam, based on a research proposal, again funded by STW, on 'Biological control of western flower thrips in cucumber crops: maintenance of predator populations in periods of thrips scarcity' that was partly performed in cooperation with Yvonne van Houten at the Research Station for Floriculture and Glasshouse Vegetables (PBG, Naaldwijk, The Netherlands). Parts of all the different research projects have finally resulted into this Thesis.

From August 2001 onwards he has a position as Ecological Modeler at the Levenhulme Unit of the NERC Centre for Population Biology and CABI Bioscience (in Silwood Park, Ascot, Berkshire, UK) where, in cooperation with Dr Matt Thomas, he contributes to the EU research project 'Evaluating environmental risks of biological control introductions into Europe (ERBIC)'.