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*Executive Board*

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Naturhistorisches Museum Wien  
Zweite zoologische Abteilung (Insekten)  
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**Date**

August 10, 2006

**Subject**

Your complaint about mr. Makhan

Dear dr. Manfred Jäch,

With great concern I took notice of your letter dated april 24, 2006, in which you informed me about the scientifically detrimental activities of mr. Dewanand Makhan.

First I would like you to know that mr. Makhan is not an employee of Utrecht University. He is working at the Herbarium under the terms of a contract with a company that provides jobs for handicapped persons. Mr. Makhan's tasks are in the technical support, not in research. His activities in the field of taxonomy are his hobby. The Herbarium knew about this hobby, but did not know that mr. Makhan was presenting himself as a taxonomist of Utrecht University. As it got clear that mr. Makhan misuses the university's name and address in this way, dr. Hans ter Steege, head of the Utrecht University branch of Nationaal Herbarium Nederland, immediately has forbidden mr. Makhan to do so. They agreed that mr. Makhan would pursue his hobby only from his home address.

Unfortunately several the days after this discussion, mr. Makhan sent some extremely improper emails to you and other taxonomists. Although we deeply regret this behaviour, I hope you will understand that Utrecht University cannot take any responsibility for it. Once again the matter was discussed with mr. Makhan. After this the faculty management has suspended him from his duties and terminated the contract with the employment company by the first possible day. Thus it was made clear to mr. Makhan that his behaviour sure is unacceptable.

Mr. Makhan will not be allowed to use the name of Utrecht University in his publications or to solicit loans by using the university's address. Nevertheless we are not able to stop him from publishing. This has to be dealt with from within the zoological community.

We mostly regret mr. Makhan behaviour, but we feel we now have taken all the appropriate measures that are within our reach.

Yours faithfully,

prof.dr. Willem Hendrik Gispen,  
Rector Magnificus