



Shizuoka, Mar. 21, 1992

### In Memoriam Keiichi KUSAMA

(6 Feb. 1924 – 6 Oct. 1998)

A page of the history of the Japanese coleopterology was closed on October 6, 1998, when we lost Keiichi KUSAMA, D.Sc., the founder and the first president of the Japanese Society of Coleopterology. He suffered from stomach cancer for some time, but kept the secret to himself and did not make us known about his serious condition. He was 74 years old at that time.

KUSAMA was born at Tokyo on February 6, 1924, but was soon moved to Zushi, a well known resort town on the Pacific, mainly for his health. There he developed interest in collecting insects, and above all in cerambycid beetles after the fifth year of the

elementary school. This continued through his student days at Shonan High School and the Faculty of Science, University of Tokyo, though he studied biochemistry in the latter. He finished the postgraduate course in 1954, and received his Sc.D. in 1960 from the same university. In 1963, he was invited from Shizuoka University as an associate professor at the Department of Humanities and Sciences, and was promoted to a professor of science in 1967. After that, he lived all the time in Shizuoka City, even after his retirement in 1988.

Thus, KUSAMA was not a professional entomologist but mainly studied radioactive isotopes in the university. However, he wrote many academic and non-academic papers on the Cerambycidae. Already in his student days, he compiled several lists of local cerambycid faunas. In 1970, he first published a description of a new species, *Necydalis moriyai* from Amami-Oshima Island of the central Ryukyus, since necydaline cerambycids were one of his favourites. He compiled lists of the Japanese Cerambycidae three times, in 1959, 1965 and 1973, and gave evaluation by six ranks to all the native species as regards occurrence frequency of their adults: very common, common, not common, few, rare, and very rare. These lists were very useful for beginners not only to give information on ecological and distributional data of Japanese cerambycids, but to arouse their interest in studying them. As the result, the cerambycid fauna of Japan was rapidly clarified in every respect — taxonomy, phylogeny, distributions, habits, host plants, and so on.

KUSAMA's contributions to the Japanese coleopterology can be divided into three categories: taxonomical studies, establishment of a society devoted to the coleopterology, and promotion of amateur longicornists. His papers published before his retirement were already enumerated on pages 3–6 in a volume entitled "*Kusamaia*", which was published in 1988 as No. 3 of the Special Bulletin of the Japanese Society of Coleopterology, so that there is no need to repeat. However, special mention should be made of the book "The Longicorn-Beetles of Japan in Color" (1984). This was the first review of almost all the species of the Cerambycidae occurring in Japan, and the volume numbering 566 pages with many colour illustrations was completed under KUSAMA's supervision.

KUSAMA actively joined in the establishment of our society for developing the coleopterology in Japan, and served as the first president from 1973 to 1987. Under his presidency, the society made a steady development, and after the amalgamation with the Coleopterists' Association of Japan in 1989, has attained the present prosperity. He was an honorary member of the society in his last years, but was still active in every way.

KUSAMA was always kind to young coleopterists, particularly to those who wished to study cerambycid beetles. Under his competent guidance, they have grown up to fledged longicornists, some of whom gain leading positions in the field of coleopterology in Japan. He always wished to utilize his collection of specimens and literature for the progress of the cerambycidology. Complying his wishes, we decided to keep, at least for the time being, his specimens of the Cerambycidae, mainly collected in Japan,

Southeast Asia, North America and New Guinea, at the hands of Shigeo TSUYUKI, Zushi City, and literature of entomology at the hands of Masatoshi TAKAKUWA, Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History, Odawara, both KUSAMA's students in the cerambycidology. We sincerely hope that these inheritances will prove useful for younger generations.

We warmly dedicate this first issue of the 1999 *Elytra* to the late Professor Dr. Keiichi KUSAMA. Fourteen papers dedicated to his memory will appear on the following pages. They are written by his students in the coleopterology and his successors in the presidency of the society.

Shigeo TSUYUKI  
Former Vice-president  
and  
Masatoshi TAKAKUWA  
Present Vice-president