



Masatoshi TAKAKUWA at Meiji Jingu on 23 March 2016 (Photo by Takehiko SATO)

## **In Memoriam Masatoshi TAKAKUWA (9 October 1947 — 25 August 2016)**

**Tatsuya NIISATO**

Dr. Masatoshi TAKAKUWA was born in Yokohama City, in year of 1947, 9th of October.

Majored in economics at Tokyo Metropolitan University and graduated in March of 1970, one year after the graduation he and his friends together founded a monthly technical journal about insects and named the publication as “Gekkan-Mushi”. Meanwhile he spent two years working at Uchi-da-Rôkakuho Shinsha as a loaned staff.

In year 1978, he made a change in career and moved to the Cultural Properties Protection Division of Kanagawa Prefecture. After working at the office for seven years, he was transferred to the Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Natural History. He served at the museum as a staff for 23 years and in April of 2002, he became curator director of the museum. He once retired in March 2008, but even after his retirement he served as rehired staff at the museum for another four years.

As his last career he served as a director at the Silk Museum, Yokohama from 2012 until 2014. After 2014 he was officially retired from all the works to enjoy his free time. Although, it seemed he was still busy after the retirement with all the conventions and committee for nature protection to at-

tend.

For specific works of Dr. TAKAKUWA “Anatomical Insect Book for Masatoshi TAKAKUWA (Hananomi-kai, 2008)” and “Longicornists (Japanese Society of Coleopterology, 2009)” summarized very well for before his retirement. After his retirement in 2008, most of his works were summarized in the 24th number of “Sayabane New Series” by AKIYAMA (2016).

About his activities in academic society, he was one of co-founders of the Japanese Society of Coleopterology in 1973. After the merger with the Japanese Society of Coleopterology, he served as a director through 2003–2006. For other works at organization and nature protection activities, it is well summarized in the issues mentioned above.

Through his time, Dr. TAKAKUWA dedicated himself for mordellid beetles and longicorn beetles. After publishing his director work of “Longicorn-beetles of Japan in Color”, he focused more on lineage classification of mordellid beetles and range dynamic survey of Phrissomini longicorns as his life work. In August of 1998, he received degree of Doctor of Agriculture from Tokyo University of Agriculture for his thesis of “A taxonomic study of the mordellid subgenus *Stenoglipa* (Coleoptera, Mordellidae)”.

Whenever I think about Dr. TAKAKUWA, it always makes me wonder how he was able to grab people’s heart. It was no matter of age or gender, there was always full of smile and laughter with people around him. He loved to drink, and he loved it a lot, the way he consumed alcohol was somehow refreshing and inspiring to our eyes. I believe that reflection was not only to colleague of his, but many others in life. There is an episode to show his popularity. In late year of 2008, a birthday party was held to celebrate his 60th at Yokohama Bay Sheraton Hotel, and remarkably there were more than 150 people attending to celebrate his birthday, so it just shows how much he was loved by his peer.

I met him in spring of 2016, it was awhile from last meeting, he told me that he is refraining from alcohol as he sensed dull pain in his stomach. Despite the pain, he apparently went to Laos for collecting beetles and enjoyed it quite well. There he found many mordellid beetles near borders of Vietnam, according to him the trip was so successful, that he can account this as second biggest result of his work.

Although, even after his return, his health was not at its best, after repeatedly going to hospital for checkup. In mid-July, he was diagnosed of pancreatic cancer, very same month, he started his hospitalization for further examination and found out that cancer is already at stage 4 and things are completely unpredictable. In early August, he returned to his home for little time. Although as his condition suddenly got worse, he reentered hospital. Not a while from then, on 25th of August, he finished his time.

The age of 68, it was too early for someone like him to leave the world, after his death we all were wordless for grief. On 19th of September, by curious coincidence we held his farewell at very same venue that we held his 60th birthday. That day we counted 281 attendees in the end.