Elytra, *Tokyo*, New Series, **9** (2): 197–198
December 25, 2019

In Memory of Kazuyoshi Kurosa (25 June 1921–18 January 2019)

Yoshiro Kurosa

Dr. Kazuyoshi Kurosa was born in Hayashino-chô, Okayama Prefecture as the second son of the Taniguchi family in 1921. He went on to attend the Konan High School in the prewar education system where from 1937 to 1940, he would explore Kamikôchi and Mt. Kiso-komagatake with the late Kouhei Sakaguchi and other friends, eventually collecting specimens of *Mesecthistatus taniguchii* among other species. He was then admitted to the medical department of the Osaka Imperial University and two years later when the odds seemed to have turned against Japan in the Pacific War, he graduated and was enlisted as a medical officer in the Saeki Air Corps. Even after the end of the war, he continued to live in the city of Saiki where he married and took the surname "Kurosa". It was in those years that he apparently began to take much interest in ground beetles and in particular, their life history, so much so that he gathered many specimens of *Panagaeus robustus* and *Trichotichnus kantoonus*, among others, which already became phantoms in Kyushu by this time. In 1950, he surveyed arthropods in limestone caves in the eastern part of Kyushu. His findings were tied in with Dr. Shun-Ichi Uéno's descriptions on the genus *Rakantrechus*.

Dr. Kurosa moved to Tokyo in 1956 where he worked as a surgeon while serving at the Department of Parasitology, Institute for Infectious Diseases, University of Tokyo, shedding light on the ecology and toxicology of poisonous insects, such as Oedemeridae and *Paederus fuscipes*. In 1959, he was conferred a doctorate degree from the University of Tokyo. Additionally, he performed long-term surveys using fixed-point insect observation by light trap in the paddy fields near the Arakawa River

at Narimasu, Itabashi Ward, Tokyo. The findings were crystalized in a dissertation for the Tokyo University of Agriculture under the title of "A Study on Ecology of Japanese Ground Beetles and Classification of Larvae (1962)" but not published. Some paragraphs of the dissertation came to light when they were published in "Illustrated Insect Larvae of Japan (1959)". Even though he himself never described species of ground beetles, most of which were published in taxonomic papers by the late Dr. Akinobu HABU and Dr. Kazuo TANAKA.

While investigating the ecological features of ground beetles and ants, it came to light that the phoretic Acari of Japan remained almost completely unexamined. His findings were so extensive that it might be assumed that his studies and descriptions were performed continuously. What was surprising was the diversity of hosts checked, such as Coleoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera as well as others. Dr. KUROSA's treatise came out with in 2009 turned out to be the last he would publish. In the following years, he had the will to conduct studies and, in fact, produced large amounts of data, but as it became increasingly difficult to create his elaborate and beautiful illustrations, he abandoned his work. At this point, he did not have much physical strength left and passed away at the age of 97 on January 18, 2019, without suffering from any specific disease.

It is rather late for this writer to say this, but I am the son of Kazuyoshi KUROSA. When I was a junior high school student, I was a healthy kid so there were many occasions to collect specimens with my father. In the winter of 1964, the Watarase marsh was already famous as a spot for the collection of insects. In the evening, insect collectors returning to Koga Station always discussed their achievements as they customarily gathered at a diner near the railway station. The majority of these people were young and looked like university students. Surprisingly, more than half of them turned out to be my father's acquaintances. As one of the young men had told us that he had collected *Chlaenius sulcicollis*, my father and I made it a practice to visit Watarase every holiday. I was annoyed by my father's insistence in continuing digging with his flashlight late into the evenings after it had become dark. Thanks to him, I was able to catch *Oodes virens*, which became the first -- and probably the last for me. Later, when I brought him a specimen of *Chlaenius sulcicollis* from Hokkaido, I recalled the father who used to return specimens to me after he checked them for mites and would say, "Why don't you give me one of them?"

On September 23, 1972, my father who no longer wanted to go out for the collecting often asked me whether I was interested in doing so. On September 17, Typhoon No. 20 brought torrential downpours to eastern Japan and in one week or so, the flooded plain along the Tone River was filled to capacity. He suggested a collection method which had turned out very lucky results along rivers in Oita Prefecture and sure enough, a tremendous number of insects were found living on the levees of Toride. On Saturday, we collected litter containing many small beetles into bags and classified them at our home and the following day, most of them were returned to the places where we had collected them. Now that my father's interest in the subjects were so broad, we could not finish the work even when we stayed up all night. As he was capable of distinguishing unrecorded species from a wide variety of beetles, I think he could have contributed to the replenishment of fauna such as Hydrophilidae, Staphylinidae, Coccinellidae, and Mordellidae.

My father's achievements may not rank among professionally high-level researchers who worked in universities and museums. But he was well informed about not only ground beetles and Acari, but also the all aspects of beetles, so much so that he offered well-informed suggestions that informed the academic work of many researchers. For amateur enthusiasts, he strived not only to stimulate their collecting but also their interest in ecology and academic careers. Having said that, he must have been a good old senior for many coleopterists.