

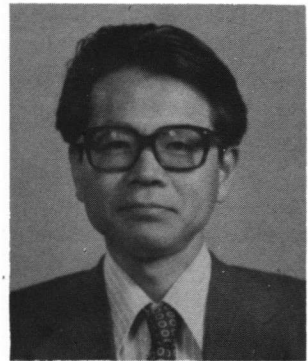
## OBITUARY

### ISAMU HIURA

A short biography of I. HIURA (born: Oct. 24, 1932, Kamiyama-cho, Tokushima Pref., Japan; deceased: Oct. 18, 1983, Kashiwara, Nara Pref., Chief Curator at the Osaka Museum of Natural History) is followed by his odonatological bibliography (1957-1984).

Before dawn of October 18, 1983, Isamu Hiura passed away suddenly at his home, with a pen in hand, preparing the manuscript of one of his entomological papers. He was Chief Curator at the Osaka Museum of Natural History, and the author of numerous entomological (incl. odonatological) publications.

ISAMU HIURA was born in Jinryo-mura (now Kamiyama-cho), Tokushima Prefecture, on October 24, 1932. The environments of his home were nature itself, and he became interested in insects from his early boyhood. Once he caught a large-sized coenagrionid at Mt Kohne near his home. His senior in entomology, the late OSAMU MIZOGUCHI, told him it was one of the rarest Japanese damselflies, *Rhipidolestes aculeata* (Shikoku race *hiraoui*, according to the recent classification). This pleased him enormously, and greatly stimulated his future interest in dragonflies. In 1951 Hiura commenced his studies at the Faculty of Agriculture, Kyushu University, where he was working on biology and classification of Hemiptera under the guidance of the late Professor TEIZO ESAKI. His M. Sc. thesis dealt with *Euspudaeus beneficus* (Anthocoridae), then a new species. Upon returning home, he became a teacher at a local senior high school for two years.



Hiura's work in the Osaka Museum of Natural History started in 1957. Gradually his interest has been directed at insect taxonomy, evolution and faunal history, which led to his principal theme, "Studies on the origin of the insect fauna of the Japanese Islands". Here the extent inventory is analyzed with special

reference to the Quaternary history. In his book, "*Butterflies migrating across the sea*" (1973, Soju-shobo), he emphasized the importance of this geological period for our understanding of the present fauna. Since the information in this field is particularly adequate in Lepidoptera, Odonata and Coleoptera, Hiura's interest was primarily centered on these orders.

Hiura was a capable Civil Servant and the initiator of construction, operation and of the displays of the newly built museum in the present Nagai Park, completed in 1979. Due to his efforts, the Museum has today a good systematic collection and a rich library. The latter includes the odonate library of the late ERIC GARDNER, which was purchased upon the advice of Dr S. ASAHINA and with the help of KIYOSHI INOUE and Dr SHIGERU TSUDA though, without Hiura's administrative strategies, the budget limitations of the Osaka City could never have been overcome. An exceptionally broad scope of museum activities is a special feature of the Osaka Museum.

Hiura regularly planned field meetings and organized identification classes at every summer's end. Countless amateurs, housewives, students, children, and senior citizens attended them. He was always very kind to newcomers and beginners in entomology. He did not teach them only the names and the interesting biological details of the organisms concerned, but

taught them the pleasure of pursuing entomological work under his motto, "Let's study together!". Consequently, in due course, numerous persons, men and women, young and old, have been attracted by him, which, in its turn, was a stimulation for Hiura to set up a number of initially more or less informal amateur groups for the study of dragonflies, carabids, the orthopterans, etc. The Kansai Research Group of Odonatology, one of the most active local groups in Japan, was initiated in 1962 by Hiura in this way.

Hiura's published opus is considerable. As far as the Odonata are concerned, the problems of *Mnais pruinosa* evolution seemed to represent a classical example of Quaternary effects on speciation. He published two papers on this



Fig. 2. The late I. Hiura (left) with Professor B. Kiauta, in Nagai Park, with the Osaka Museum of Natural History in the background. (May 18, 1979; photo M. Kiauta).

subject (1972 f, 1972 g), they greatly stimulated interest in these calopterygids in Japan. The migratory *Sympetrum frequens* and *Pantala flavescens* also received much of his attention (1967c, 1968b, 1969b, 1972d, 1972e, 1973, 1974e, 1976b, 1976c, 1979c, 1983a, 1984a). However, it is Hiura's identification guides that are probably most widely known and most highly appreciated by the general public, not the least so because of his clear illustrations (1958a, 1961a, 1961b, 1964a, 1977a).

He was a splendid painter. Once he said to his wife YOSHIKO "I would have been a painter if I had not met in my boyhood a youth who visited my village with a net in hand. This was Mr Mizoguchi, who led me to become an entomologist". His talent for painting enabled him to draw excellent pictures for insect identification.

Hiura was on the boards of various societies, such as the Entomological Society of Japan, Lepidopterological Society of Japan, the Quaternarological Society of Japan, etc. He was a member of the Kansai Research Group of Odonatology, of the Society of Odonatology, Tokyo and of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica (S.I.O.) from the very beginning.

Hiura's sudden death came as a shock to everyone who knew him. On October 17, 1983, he was engaged in a field survey of danaid butterflies in Mt. Kongo. He returned home in the evening, and started to write after dinner. The results of the day's survey were written up first; then he started on another article. Suddenly, he was attacked by a stroke and fell down over the manuscript on the desk, with a pen in hand — He passed away at 3:30 a.m. by cardiac insufficiency.

Obituaries appeared in the local daily press (e.g. *Asahi* etc.) and in numerous professional journals. *Nature Study* wrote an obituary notice in its November issue (29 (11)) and published a special commemorative issue (29 (12)) with 14 obituaries by colleagues, which were followed by another in the January issue (30 (1)). An obituary appeared in *Nature & Insects* 19(2). *Gracile* published a memorial number in April 1984 with obituaries by 11 members as well as three posthumous articles by Mr Hiura. It included a letter of condolence to Mrs Hiura from Prof. Dr M.J. Westfall, President of S.I.O.

Once a little primary school boy was brought to Mr Hiura in the museum at his mother's hand. He has grown up to be a teacher of biology at a senior high school and is the father of a child now. Such students we can find now as many nature researchers. Hiura is gone, but he left many enthusiastic odonatologists and nature loving persons affected deeply by him.

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*Portrait on p. 597 dated July, 1977*

5-9. *Fuminosato 4-chome*  
Abeno-ku, Osaka, 545, Japan

K. INOUE