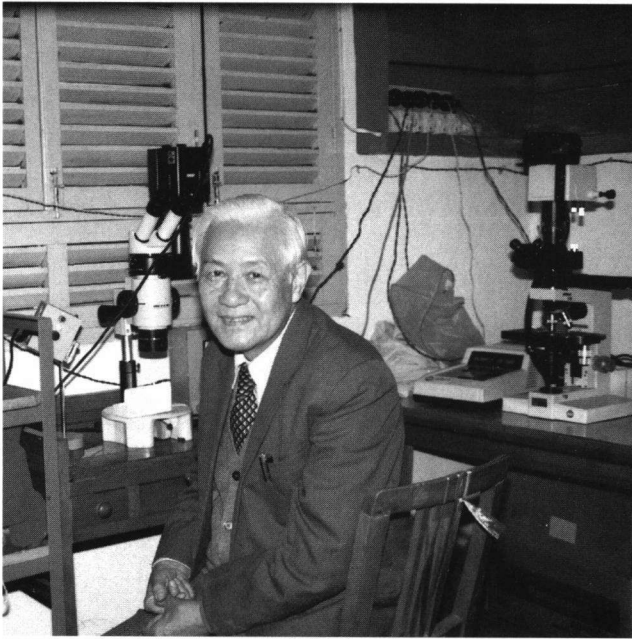


**IN MEMORY OF HSIU-FU CHAO (XIUFU ZHAO)  
(17 May 1917 - 2 May 2001)**



*H. F. Chao*

*Dr XIUFU ZHAO, known from his publications and correspondence as HSIU-FU CHAO, a renowned entomologist and the Doyen of Chinese odonatology, died of a heart attack on 2nd May 2001 at Fujian province, P.R. China, at the age of 85.*



*Dr Xiufu Zhao was born at Fuzhou, Fujian province on 17 May 1917. He showed great interest in observing nature already while he was a child. He studied at Fuzhou Scientific and Technology Middle School, where the well-known biologist Zhongzhang Tang gave lectures on biology during the period Zhao attended this school. Guided by Tang, he soon began studying biology. He passed entrance examinations for both Qinghua University and Yenjing University in 1935. Following the advice of his brother, Xiuqian Zhao, he chose to attend the latter. At Yenjing he studied under the guidance of the celebrated biologist Jingfu Hu. An insect catching boy during childhood, now a junior in a university he*

*started investigating injurious insects of fruit trees. He commenced a study on parasitic wasps with great interest and soon made original discoveries. Seeing that he was interested in zootaxonomy, Professor Wu sent him a copy of J.G. Needham's Manual of the dragonflies of China, in order to introduce him to the realm of zootaxonomy. As a result, Zhao entered this domain with great enthusiasm. He was admitted as an honorary member of the "Beta Beta Beta Learned Society" in recognition of the excellence of his studies. He was also awarded a 'Golden Key' for the first time in his life.*

*As a postgraduate he was engaged by Qilu University, Qingdao, Shandong province, where he investigated the habits and characteristics of armyworms; a subject area undertaken for vermin prevention. In 1941 he was a teacher at Peiyang Girls Middle School, Quanzhou, Fujian province. One year later he taught at Xieho University, Shaowu County and studied insects following Professor T.C. Maa. In view of the occurrence of bubonic plague in the region, he collected a large number of fleas and studied these disease-carrying insects. He often went up to the Wuyi Mountain area and caught large numbers of parasitic wasps and dragonflies for study.*

*After celebrating the Spring Festival in 1948, he accompanied his father-in-law to Anhai County by sea route. Unfortunately the ship overturned and a large number of passengers were killed in the disaster. Zhao, an experienced swimmer, managed to swim away, saving his father-in-law, and also dragging along with him a chest of odonate specimens, which were wrapped in a tarpaulin. Fortunately they all survived the sea accident. It was these specimens that helped him complete his dissertation for a Doctorate degree.*

*In 1948 Zhao went to Massachusetts, USA to pursue advanced studies and, in three years, completed the major publications: "The external morphology of Ophio-*

*gomphus ardens (Needham)*”; “A note on the persistence of a much neglected primary antenodal cross-vein in the order Odonata” and “Classification of Chinese dragonflies of the family Gomphidae (Odonata)”. The latter study has been praised as the ‘Golden Key’ for unfastening the lock to provide a much improved understanding of Asian Gomphidae and their classification. In view of these achievements he acquired a Master’s and a Doctorate degree during his three years period in the USA and was awarded another ‘Golden Key’ by the Learned Society of Honours. In order to revitalise the study of entomology in his native country, he declined to stay abroad and returned to China, after passing through many different countries in 1951.



Fig. 3. Dr X. Zhao (Hsiu-fu Chao) in front of the newly constructed building of his Biological Pest Control Research Institute In Fuzhou (Fujian Agricultural University), 1984.

At Fujian Agricultural University Dr Zhao endeavoured to transform the achievements into productive scientific research. Aiming at plant disease prevention and pest control, he placed himself in a paddy field to investigate the living conditions of harmful insects. In this way he experienced a new viewpoint in tackling pest control.

Xiufu travelled again to the USA in 1979 as a visiting scholar. There he exchanged ideas

with US experts on the prevention and control of plant pests and parasitic wasps.

Resulting from a proposal made by him, the Natural Environmental Protection Area of Wuyi Mountain was eventually established in 1979. In the period of investigation of insect resources in Wuyi Mountain area sponsored by him, 1.1 million specimens were collected. From this material 39 orders, 356 families and 4,697 insect and mite species were identified. Many new species and new records were established. Supported by the Provincial Government he started to publish the periodical, Science Journal, Wuyi, for which he acted as Editor. Fifteen volumes and one supplementary issue were published until 1981, which facilitated international academic exchange.

Dr Zhao’s odonatological opus contains over 50 monographs and papers, largely devoted to the taxonomy and classification of the Chinese Gomphidae. He established a new gomphid subfamily, a number of genera and 58 new species, currently recognised, in Chlorolestidae, Chlorogomphidae and Gomphidae. In recognition of

*the excellency of his work, various workers dedicated a number of species to him, viz. Ceriagrion chaoi Schmidt, 1964, Cephalaeschna chaoi Asahina, 1982, Polycanthagyna chaoi Yang & Li, 1994, Anisogomphus chaoi Lin, 1991, Davidius chaoi Cao & Zheng, 1988, Lamelligomphus chaoi Zhu, 1999, Merogomphus chaoi Yang & Davies, 1993, Nihonogomphus chaoi Zhou & Wu, 1992, Phaenandrogomphus chaoi Zhu & Liang, 1994 and Anotogaster chaoi Zhou, 1998. With the publication of the present issue, these are joined by Rhinocypha chaoi Wilson, Rhipidolestes chaoi Wilson, Calicnemia chaoi Wilson, Fuxiaeschna hsiufunia Lin, Zhang & Huang, and by Heliogomphus chaoi Karube. Some of his works were born under difficult circumstances, but even during hospitalisation he continued to work on dragonflies; his last three publications were completed in a hospital ward in 1999. Dr Zhao also instructed a number of graduate students, but none of these now work in the field of odonatology.*

*Although Xiufu majored in parasitic wasps and biological control, he also dealt with problems insects caused in everyday life and published numerous papers in this field. He also wrote popular science literature. All of these writings total 143 titles.*

*Xiufu's wife, Chunliu Xu, was his schoolmate in Yanjing University. They married in 1941, after a long period of separation caused by the war. In order to give strong support to her husband she quit her position as Principal of a middle school and took up a post as a librarian. She was very much Xiufu's affectionate wife as well as a good friend. She died on June 25th, 1986. They have three sons and two daughters. Their eldest son, Jingwei, has studied in Australia and is now doing research work on the ecology of biological prevention and control. The second son, Jingzhang, has studied in the USA, and has a Master's in Biology. The youngest son, Jinghuei, is now working in the Philippines. The two daughters, Jingzhen and Jinglun, are middle school teachers of high rank. His family was very happy and was twice awarded a certificate of merit, bearing the name "Well Educated Family". They held a family concert whenever there was a festival. All the children can play musical instruments such as piano, violin, accordion etc.*

*Xiufu's hobbies were varied; swimming, basketball, table tennis, calligraphy etc., all of which he was keen on. In his last years he loved watching athletics on television.*

*Dr Zhao lead a full life. He was a learned man who didn't fritter away his time and at the end of his life he had no regrets. For the world odonatological community and for the science of odonatology his departure is a heavy loss.*

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Portraits on pp. 353 and 355  
dated 1991 and 1997, respectively

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