

OBITUARY

IMATO SONEHARA

A brief biography of I. Sonehara (28 January 1921-12 May 2000), a science teacher and the author of "*The life history of Epitheca bimaculata sibirica on Mt. Yatsugatake*" is followed by his odonatological bibliography (1962-1996; 66 titles).

IMATO SONEHARA, the author of "*The life history of Epitheca bimaculata sibirica on Mt. Yatsugatake*" and a co-editor of "*Dragonflies of Nagano prefecture*", passed away at the age of 79, on 12 May 2000, in consequence of brain and leg injuries received in a traffic accident in July 1999, while he was riding a motorbike, heading for a place of dragonfly faunal survey at a village (Misato-mura) adjacent to his home town.

He was a member of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica, the Japanese Society for Odonatology, the Entomological Society of Shinshu, the Hokkaido Odonatological Society, and of the Worldwide Dragonfly Association. Sonehara was an eager, sincere, generous, gentle and cheerful dragonfly lover, devoting the latter 40 years of his life to odonatology, especially to the research of life history.

He was born on 28 January 1921 at Shiga-mura, Nagano prefecture. He graduated from Nagano Prefectural Young Men's School for Teacher Training in 1942, and from the Temporary Training School of Science Teachers, attached to the Hokkaido University, in 1948. Since then, he worked as a science teacher in several junior and senior high schools until he retired in 1981.



Imato Sonehara

Sonehara began his odonatological research in 1961 with a survey of the dragonfly fauna in Saku city and the adjacent villages. He became a Research Student at Nagano Prefecture School of Science Education, Faculty of Textile Science and Technology, Shinshu University and studied dragonfly biology under supervision of Professor Nagao Koyama, for one year.

Since 1962 when he found some habitats where *Aeshna mixta*, a rare species in Japan, occurred, Sonehara devoted much of his time to the study of odonate life history, under supervision of Dr Syoziro Asahina. In 1966 he was dispatched by the Board of Education, Nagano prefecture, to the Department of Medical Entomology, National Institute of Health, Tokyo as a visiting researcher and was engaged in a project titled 'Comparative ecological research in *Epiheca marginata* and *E. bimaculata sibirica*' under the supervision of Dr Asahina, for one year.

Sonehara also studied life histories of *Sympetrum danae*, *Somatochlora arctica*, *Mortonagrion selenion* and *Coenagrion terue*.

Dr S. Asahina (1988, *Gekkan Mushi* 211: 11-20) named *Aeshna mixta soneharai* in token of Sonehara's contribution to the biology of this Japanese subspecies.

Dr Philip Corbet cited thirteen published works in his book titled "*Dragonflies: behavior and ecology of Odonata*", published by Cornell University Press in 1999.

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Portrait on p. 415 dated early 1990s.

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