

REQUEST FOR SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS FOR THE XII INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Your Managing Editor and Peter Zwick have corresponded recently regarding the situation that some active Plecopterologists, particularly some of those (for example) from Eastern Europe, are unable to afford to attend our International Symposia. This is a loss felt by us all, since we lose the opportunity to personally meet and share scientific information with these valuable colleagues. I have come to regard the participants of the past several symposia, that my wife and I have attended, as part of our family - the "scientific arm and heart" of our family, so to speak.

Peter and I would like to take this opportunity to encourage any of you who are able, to send a modest donation to a fund we wish to establish for scholarships to help deserving colleagues attend the XII Symposium in Switzerland, and hopefully others that will come in the future. Our proposal is that the International Committee will take up this matter more formally in Chateau-d'Oex, Switzerland, and formulate a recommendation to be voted on by participants. In the meantime, current donations will be administered by the International Committee to help one or more interested colleagues with expenses to attend and participate in the next symposium. Please address your donations to: Professor Dr. Peter Zwick, Limnologische Flußstation, des Max-Planck-Instituts für Limnologie, D-36105 Schlitz, Postfach 260, GERMANY. To reduce exchange costs, please send the donation in the form of checks designated in German DM, and specify "Plecoptera Symposium Scholarship Donation."

IN MEMORIAM

DR. MITSUKO (MADAME) KOHNO

Editor's Note: This tribute to Madame Kohno has been assembled from recent correspondence about her death from her son, Shunsuke Kohno to Bill P. Stark, and notes or letters on her activities, contributions, or collections from Bill P. Stark, P. Zwick, letter to P. Zwick from Professor Aubert, and Shigekazu Uchida. I take full responsibility for any unintended errors or omissions of this narrative, and solicit any corrections to be published in next year's PERLA 13.

Dr. Mitsuko Kohno (known to most of us as Madame Kohno) died of cerebral hemorrhage on December 13, 1992, at the age of 76. This information came in a letter from her son, Shunsuke Kohno, dated December 24, 1993, to Bill P. Stark. Mr. Kohno indicated that articles of Dr. Kohno will be exhibited in a Prefectural Museum at Otsu City in 1996, and that her husband (his father) had died just a few month's earlier than his mother. He wrote that, looking back over her life, she was delighted when she was "doing something with her studies of stonefly and that is why she could meet many of you."

Many of us have fond memories of our association with Madame Kohno at the International Meetings. She attended most (if not all?) of the meetings prior to the Wisconsin Symposium. She published at least 73 stonefly articles, most in Japanese, between 1934 and 1986. Many include descriptions of nymphs of Japanese species. Her writings proposed at least 24 species, one subspecies and three genera. The genera are: *Caroperla*, *Pseudomegarcys* and *Neopeltoperla* (the latter now is considered invalid). Species include *Yoraperla uenoi*, *Nemoura asakawae*, *Capnia flebilis*, *C. yasumatsui*, *C. shirahatae*, *C. asakawae*, *C. fukushimaana*, *Takagriopteryx jezoensis*, *T. imamurai*, *Isocapnia japonica*, *Nemocapnia japonica*, *Perlodes frisonanus*, *Pseudomegarcys japonicus*, *Ostrovus mitsukonis* (Okamoto & Kohno), *Isoperla asakawae*, *I. okamotoi*, *I. debilis*, *I. aizuwana*, *I. azusana*, *I. fukushimaensis*, *Caroperla pacifica*, *Kamimuria tibialis uenoi*, *Haploperla japonica*, *Alloperla jezoensis*, *A. ishikariana*.

On March 10, 1994, Peter Zwick received a letter from Prof. Aubert that contained the following passage, that he described as part of a treasure of memories of old times spent between Prof. Aubert and other students of Plecoptera:

"In 1948, I received a letter from a young Japanese mother who sent me a nice photograph of herself and her first son, aged 4. She apologized that she, a humble citizen of the modest and contemptible Japanese people, dared write to a foreigner. You are right, this was Mrs. Mitsuko Kohno. We have also exchanged postage stamps, but she never wanted to send me stoneflies from Japan in exchange for European species. Later, in 1963, I met her at Plön and she came to visit me the same year. I always found it difficult to communicate with her and to understand her English."

Peter Zwick believes that Aubert's last sentence describes the experience of everybody who met Madame Kohno, and it was his impression too that it was difficult to communicate with her until Heidi Zwick eventually found out that one could very well communicate with her in writing, in English. So, the

Zwicks used to write information down and pass the paper to her, with many bows; a clear and easily understood answer followed immediately, and was returned to them with even more bows. Peter indicated that Dr. Kohno was extremely polite, gentle and generous, and for years had sent Japanese items at Christmas, with very nice cards and brochures on her private museum, and on sake production, which was the family tradition. She was also very proud of her husband's work; he was a Medical Professor and embryologist. One of the last letters Peter Zwick received from Dr. Kohno accompanied her husband's translation of a standard German text on experiments with amphibian eggs into Japanese. Peter, and all of us who knew Dr. Kohno, have always admired that her interest in Plecoptera continued far beyond the period of her active work on the group, and that she continued to attend Plecoptera Symposia at her private expense, even when her health made that difficult for her. We will all miss her at the next meeting.

In 1973, Dr. Richard Baumann visited Madame Kohno in her home town of Aizu Wakamatsu: she was extremely gracious and arranged for him to go collecting with a chauffeur and her college-age daughter, as a translator. She even accompanied him one afternoon, although she did not enter the river to collect herself. She housed Dick at excellent Japanese hotels and invited him once for tea in her home and to visit her sake museum. "Her home was very nice, but the floor of her living room was stacked several feet deep with reprints and journals."

In another recent letter to Peter Zwick, Dr. Shigekazu Uchida, of the Lake Biwa Museum Project Office in Otsu, Japan, indicated that "the latest work in my office was the transport of the specimens and literature collections of Dr. Mitsuko Kohno from Aizu Wakamatsu to Otsu. Most of her types have been saved, although they are dry in the vial."

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- Kohno, M. (1941b): New species of stoneflies from Japan (1). - Kontyû, Tokyo, 15: 132-138 (in Japanese).
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