



IN MEMORIAM: Keizo Aizawa (1927-2011)

Dr. Keizo Aizawa, an Honorary Member of the Society for Invertebrate Pathology, passed away from complications of lung cancer on January 10th, 2011 at the age of 83 in Fukuoka City, Japan. Dr. Aizawa was born on February 13th, 1927 in Okaya, Nagano Prefecture of central Honshu, Japan. He began training as an insect pathologist in 1947 at the Tokyo University of Agriculture with Dr. Naoto Ishimori, who discovered a cytoplasmic polyhedrosis virus in the silkworm, and studied insect immunity with Dr. S. Metalnikov in the Institute of Pasteur, Paris before the Second World War. After graduating in 1950, he joined the Division of Silkworm Pathology at the Sericultural Experiment Station, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Tokyo and soon became a chief of the silkworm virology laboratory. Because of his expertise in silkworm diseases, Dr. Aizawa was sent in 1958 to work for 15 months in France with Dr. C. Vago at the Station de Recherches Cytopathologique, INRA-CNRS. Upon his return to Japan in 1959, Dr. Aizawa was awarded his Ph.D. from Tokyo University for his work on *Bacillus thuringiensis*, insect cell culture and the microbial control of insect pests. Five years later, he established the Laboratory of Insect Pathology and Microbial Control at the Institute of Biological Control of Kyushu University where he worked on several nucleopolyhedrosis viruses of lepidopteron insects and the now-famous *aizawai* variety of *B. thuringiensis*. It was not surprising that in 1968 he received the Japan Prize of Agricultural Science from the Japanese Society of Agronomy. Dr. Aizawa directed the efforts of his research group toward developing *B. thuringiensis* as a novel microbial insecticide and in 1981 saw it registered in Japan for use in commercial agriculture and sericulture. Dr. Aizawa was a valued member of the Japanese Society for Virology for more than four decades, organized the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology meeting in Fukuoka and served as President of this society in 1986. He was awarded Honorary Member status in the Japanese Society for Virology (1998) and the Society for Invertebrate Pathology (1992). After 25 years as full professor, Dr. Aizawa retired in 1990 from Kyushu University and was awarded professor emeritus. The same year he was awarded the Louis Pasteur Prize by the Executive Committee of the International Sericultural Commission for his conspicuous contributions to developing sericulture worldwide. During his tenure as professor and director of the institute, Dr. Aizawa was an avid enthusiast and collector of antique sericology books published during the Endo Period. Dr. Keio Aizawa is remembered by his students and young scientists as the father and prominent pioneer of invertebrate pathology and microbial control in Japan. We honor his lifelong commitment to preserving the academic tradition of the Sericultural Experiment Station for the younger generation of invertebrate pathologists around the world. -Takeshi Kawarabata