



**Professor Hitoshi Watanabe**  
**October 7, 1929-November 17, 2000**

Professor Hitoshi Watanabe passed away on November 17, 2000 after a long illness due to a liver disorder. His passing ended an outstanding career as an insect pathologist. Hitoshi was born on October 7, 1929 in Yokohama, Japan. Upon completing his high school education in Niigata city, he was accepted at the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Agriculture and graduated in 1954. He became a research scientist at the Kyushu branch of the Sericultural Experiment Station. After two years, he joined, as an assistant, the Laboratory of Sericulture, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tokyo. During this period, he obtained his doctorate in 1961 on the genetics (heterosis) of the silkworm from the University of Tokyo, School of Biological Sciences. He continued to work in the Laboratory of Sericultural Science for 34 years and retired in 1990. He was promoted to associate professor in 1972 and to full professor in 1988 when he became chairman of the Laboratory. After retirement, he joined the faculty of the Tokyo University of Agriculture for two years.

In the late 1950's, Professor Aruga, chairman of the Laboratory, changed the focus of research from genetics to insect pathology. Henceforth, Dr. Watanabe became involved primarily in insect pathology with emphasis on the silkworm viruses: the baculoviruses, the cytoplasmic polyhedrosis virus, and the nonoccluded viruses. Among his important contributions were the demonstration of silkworm resistance to virus infections and the elucidation of the pathophysiological changes in virus-infected silkworm larvae with the use of radioautography and gel electrophoresis.

Dr. Watanabe published 133 papers, about 110 in insect pathology, 16 reviews and 5 books. In 1972, he was awarded the Sericultural Science Prize from the Japanese Society of Sericultural Sciences; in 1982, he received the Agricultural Science Prize from the Society for Agricultural Sciences of Japan and the Yomiuri Prize for Agricultural Sciences from the Yomiuri Newspaper Company for a series of studies on silkworm viruses.

He was very active in Japan in scientific societies and in education. He served as vice president (1988-1989) in the Japanese Society of Sericultural Sciences and as a trustee (1982-1986) in the Society for Invertebrate Pathology. During the period from 1972-1990, he was involved in 108 doctoral theses submitted to the School of Agricultural Sciences. As a child, Hitoshi began collecting stamps. He specialized in collecting stamps picturing insects when he began his

research on insects. In 1960, he first met Professor Edward Steinhaus who was in Japan on sabbatical leave to visit international centers involved in insect pathology. Hitoshi was surprised and pleased that Dr. Steinhaus also collected insect stamps and had written a paper on such stamps. At the 50th anniversary of the Japanese Society of Sericultural Sciences, Hitoshi was invited to display his stamp collection.

Hitoshi made his first official visit to the USA in 1969, when he was invited as an Assistant Specialist in the Department of Entomology and Parasitology, University of California, Berkeley. He worked with Y. Tanada in the Laboratory of Insect Pathology on the resistance of insects to viruses. He was highly productive, efficient and very much liked by the staff and students. Accordingly, he received a second invitation in 1984.

Dr. Watanabe is survived by his wife Haruko and a son and two daughters. Everyone, who has known him, will miss this modest, kind and distinguished insect pathologist.

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