

Obituary

Syusiro Ito (1920–2016)

**Biography of Prof. Syusiro Ito**

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Prof. Syusiro Ito was born July 28, 1920, in Kyoto, and died December 3, 2016, from old age. He lost his wife, Mihoko, in 1998, and is survived by his son, Yasuo, who living in Yokohama.

His primary interest in insects was butterflies, and he published his first article during high school days. He entered Kyushu University in 1942 and started his professional study of the entomology, supervised by Drs. Teizo Esaki and Keizo Yasumatsu. In 1944, he graduated from the university and had a position as an assistant of entomology, working at the Hikosan biological laboratory of the Kyushu University. After working as an associate professor of the Higher Agricultural Engineering College, Osaka, he took

an associate professor of the Naniwa University (lately University of Osaka Prefecture) in 1950 and rose in rank to a professor of the university in 1961.

Syusiro Ito was interested in fruit fly (Diptera: Tephritidae), inspired with Dr. T Shiraki's monograph published in 1933 during his student days. He published his first article on tephritids in 1943 and in 1947 he described his first new species, *Rhacochlaena japonica*, which was a serious pest of cherry at the 1930's in Japan. He got a doctor degree of agriculture at Kyushu University in 1955, with his thesis entitled as "Contribution to the systematics of the Japanese trypetids". The synopsis of his thesis was published as Ito (1956) and the full-text of his thesis was published as a self-published monograph, *Die japanischen Bohrfliegen*, from 1983 to 1985.

Prof. Ito established the Societas Dipterologica together with other 10 dipterists at that time in 1960. The detail background of the establishments of the society was given in the *Makunagi*, Vol. 1. He named the journal from an old Japanese word meaning the midges and gnats and illustrated the banner by himself. He had taken secretariat of the society and edited nine volumes of the journal for 18 years.

Prof. Ito retired a professor of the University of Osaka Prefecture in 1984 as a professor emeritus. During his career of more than 30 years in colleges, he educated many students on taxonomy of insects, especially focused on identification of pests for economic-important plants. He published the first catalog of Japanese leafhoppers, coauthored with Dr. T Esaki in 1954. He also disseminated control measure of termites after his retirement. According to these contributions to education of pest control and its basic science he was decorated for his service with the order of the rising sun, gold rays with neck ribbon in 1994.

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