



Title	PROFESSOR TOHRU UCHIDA
Author(s)	MAKINO, Sajiro
Citation	北海道大學理學部紀要, 13(1-4)
Issue Date	1957-08
Doc URL	<a href="http://hdl.handle.net/2115/27190">http://hdl.handle.net/2115/27190</a>
Type	bulletin (article)
File Information	13(1_4)_Professor.pdf



[Instructions for use](#)

## PROFESSOR TOHRU UCHIDA

Professor Tohru Uchida is one of those brilliant zoologists who created the glorious generation of Japanese biology in the beginning of the twentieth century; thanks to the work of those pioneer leaders, the position of Japanese biology has been raised to the European and American standard. Professor Uchida is now to be congratulated for his having attained the age of sixty on the 24th, August 1957. The present volume is gratefully and affectionately dedicated to him by his pupils and friends on the occasion of the celebration of his sixtieth birthday.

Professor Tohru Uchida was born in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka-Prefecture, on August 24, 1897, as the second son of Shuhei Uchida, an authority of classical Chinese literature. But he spent most of his earlier years in Tokyo, where he was educated and where he started his professional career. Early in his boyhood he showed a keen interest in insect habits and nature studies. Such a tendency of mind led him to a career in zoology. After he had received his preliminary training at the First High School in Tokyo, he entered the College of Science of the Tokyo Imperial University, taking the course of zoology. His dominating interest in zoology arose through contact with many senior specialists in the said University. Among them the late Professor Seitaro Goto influenced him most, introducing him to the study of invertebrate zoology. Thus his career in zoology was begun, to continue to the present. Under the guidance of Professor Goto, he took up the taxonomy of medusae as the subject of his special research. After completing the course of zoology of the Tokyo Imperial University in 1923, he continued the same study under Professor Goto as a member of the research staff of the Zoological Institute. He taught zoology as an extra private work in the Urawa High School for a few years following 1924. In December 1928, he received the degree of Rigaku Hakushi (D. Sc.) for his brilliant pioneer work on the phylogeny of the medusae.<sup>1)</sup> From May 1929 to August 1931, he was abroad staying mainly in Europe. Dr. Uchida's attention while in Europe was turned to new fields of work in order to extend further the scope of his own research, and he showed much ability and interest therein. A major part of his stay in Europe was spent in the Biology Laboratory of the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute, Berlin-Dahlem, with Professor R. Goldschmidt, under whose influence he studied the sexuality of amphibians. During the absence of Prof. Goldschmidt he stayed in Munich to keep contact with professor Karl von Frisch who introduced him to sensory physiology, particularly regarding the gustatory sense of fish. For a time he stayed

---

1) Studies on the Stauromedusae and Cubomedusae, with special reference to their metamorphosis. *Jap. Jour. Zool.* 2: 103-193, Pl. 3-5.

in Paris where he joined the staff of the laboratory of Professor M. Caullery under whom he devoted himself to ecological observations of water-mites and the hog louse, *Asellus aquaticus*. During the years abroad, he took many trips in Europe to visit noted zoologists. Making stops at laboratories here and there, he found specialists in invertebrate zoology with whom he became very friendly. In 1930, he attended the 11th International Congress of Zoology held in Padova, Italy, representing the Zoological Society of Japan. On the way home from Europe, he visited the United States in the summer of 1931. His particular interest was in the visit to the laboratory of Dr. Emil Witschi, State University of Iowa, who had invited Dr. Uchida as his official guest.

Upon his return from abroad in August 1931, a new position was offered to Dr. Uchida as Assistant Professor of Zoology in the Faculty of Science of Hokkaido University which had been started in the previous year. At the same time he and his family moved from Tokyo to Sapporo. He took charge of the course of systematic zoology in the Zoology Department. He was primarily responsible for the establishment of the new department with the cooperation of his colleagues, Dr. Kan Oguma (cytologist) and Dr. Tetsuo Inukai (embryologist). His abilities were quickly recognized by many authorities, so that he was rapidly advanced to be made Professor of Zoology in March 1932. On the other hand, he devoted his major effort to arranging the marine biological laboratory. In 1934, he was appointed the Director of the Akkeshi Marine Biological Station, which position he still holds involving ceaseless effort and many activities. He has placed great stress on research work in both laboratory and field, together with the training of research men. So both the Zoology Department and the Marine Biological Station have grown rapidly under his leadership. Thus in a few years the laboratories have become outstanding ones in Japan, producing a great many valuable papers written by the staff. Ever since the retirement of Professor Oguma in 1943, Professor Uchida has been in charge of the zoology department as the chairman. During the years in this post, he has made several trips to Saghalin, Korea, Manchuria, Formosa and Palao Islands, with the purpose of collecting animals for study and of extending the field of his own research.

From June to September, 1954, Professor Uchida made his second trip to Europe, to attend the 14th International Congress of Zoology held in Copenhagen, as a delegate of the Zoological Society of Japan. He then inspected the zoological institutes and museums in Germany, France, England, Sweden, Turkey, Greece, and so on.

Professor Uchida's abilities and research activities may well be recognized by looking over the list of publications annexed herewith. His dominant interest in zoological science centers about the systematic zoology. His research field includes coelenterates involving medusae, hydroids and actinians, besides archiannelids, water-mites, sea-stars and phoronids. He has contributed not only taxonomical studies of these animals, but also papers on their morphology and

development. Furthermore, he has devoted much effort to the exploration of the fauna of the coastal waters about Japan. His activity has extended to a most valuable survey of marine animals around the coasts of Hokkaido with the collaboration of his students. After the war he became much concerned about the advancement and extension of systematic zoology in Japan, and in friendly connection with Professor T. Esaki, he organized the "Society of Systematic Zoology of Japan". It is evident that the activity of this society is much indebted to his expert leadership.

In addition to systematic zoology, he has made an outstanding contribution to experimental analyses of sex differentiation of Japanese amphibians. Furthermore, his attention has been drawn to the study of sensory physiology of animals, and he has written papers on sensory behaviors in bees, fish, salamanders and dogs. The interests and activities of Professor Uchida are then reflected in his zoological publications which now exceed 150 in number covering a wide range of subject matter. They may be conveniently classified under four headings: (1) systematic zoology, (2) sexuality, (3) sensory physiology, and (4) ecological behavior of animals. Besides the zoological papers, he has also produced several scientific books. Further, he has rendered invaluable service as a translator of several noted foreign books, such as those written by Drs. H.F. Osborn, J. Huxley and K.v. Frisch; they have exerted strong influence on the education of young research workers. In addition to his scientific interests, one of the artistic sides of his nature reveals itself in his ability as an essayist. His interest in the essay which was aroused in his younger days, has its artistic aspects as well as its scientific ones. His ability in this field is indicated by the fact that he had the honor to be awarded a prize from the Japanese Essayists' Club in 1953.

He has engaged in many extramural activities. He has been one of the councilors of the Zoological Society of Japan for over twenty-five years, and served as editor of the "Zoological Magazine" for the period from 1922 to 1925. Also he has been acting as a member of the editorial board of the "Annotationes Zoologicae Japonenses" for over twenty years. Early in post-war days (1946), he initiated in Sapporo a local organization for biological research, and further encouraged the restoration of Japanese science by publishing a periodical "Seibutu" for four years. In 1954 he was made one of the editors of the "Insectes Sociaux", an organ of the "Union Internationale pour l'étude des Insectes Sociaux".

Throughout his teaching career at Hokkaido University, Professor Uchida has maintained a deep concern and great care towards the training and cultivation of research workers. He has stimulated the individual students to develop themselves through their own efforts. He has afforded to students opportunities for self development with a natural inclination toward natural science and investigation. Many of these disciples have pursued their studies until they received the Doctor's degree, and then transferred to other universities and laboratories to complete their preparation for professional careers. Many eminent young scholars

thus came under his influence, particularly in the fields of systematic zoology, sexuality and ecology. Further, he has served since its start on the editorial committee of the "Journal of the Faculty of Science, Hokkaido University", being primarily responsible for the editing and publication of the Zoology Division (Series VI) of this journal. Under his editorship, a high standard of quality has been maintained in published articles. Many scientific activities and the spirit of solidarity that characterize the Zoology Department over which he presides are widely recognized; they are properly attributable to his guiding influence.

In short, he is not only a successful teacher, but also a first-rate leader who has made invaluable contributions in promoting the advance of zoology.

July 1957

Sajiro Makino, D. Sc.

Professor of Zoology, Hokkaido University