

PREFACE

This issue of "Heterocycles" is dedicated to Professor Emeritus Tetsuo Nozoe by a group of his friends, admirers and former students on the occasion of his 77th birthday.

I remember well the impact on the chemical world of M. J. S. Dewar's claim in 1945 that a new "aromatic" system, tropolone, is present in certain microbial metabolites and in the alkaloid colchicine, a claim that was followed by the finding of H. Erdtman and J. Gripenberg that the same system is present in some heartwood constituents. The discovery of tropolone-system was considered to be one of the major advances of organic chemistry at that time. When, somewhat later, it became known that on the other side of the globe a Japanese chemist, working during the war in Formosa (now Taiwan) and continuing after the war his work at the Tohoku University, had independently and extensively investigated the chemistry of tropolones, the name Tetsuo Nozoe became familiar to all organic chemists. Through his subsequent work on tropolones and related compounds Nozoe contributed greatly to a new rapidly developing chapter of organic chemistry - the chemistry of non-benzenoid aromatic compounds - and founded in Sendai a famous school, which continues to make important contributions to chemistry.

Professor Nozoe is not only an excellent chemist and successful teacher but he is also a most friendly and charming person, a generous host and an amiable guest. These and many other virtues have made him a most

prominent member of the international chemical family.

Among other things he also discovered how to look and remain youthful all his life. There are several stories about visitors who, meeting him for the first time, have assumed that he is a student of the famous old professor. Professor Nozoe's Japanese and international chemical family wishes him to enjoy the results of this particular discovery "ad multos annos".

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Prelog', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vladimir Prelog