

OBITUARY

Seiji Tokumasu

Obituary: Dr. Hiroharu Indoh (1908–2003)

Dr. Hiroharu Indoh, former president of the Japanese Mycological Society and an eminent and influential mycologist in Japan, passed away on January 19, 2003, at the age of 94. We have now lost all the founders of our society.

Dr. Indoh was born in Sakurada-cho, Azabu Ward (Moto-azubu, Minato Ward at present), Tokyo, on June 27, 1908. He graduated from Tokyo Dai-iti Public Junior High School in 1928 and entered Tokyo Higher Normal School. After graduation, he entered Tokyo Bunrika Daigaku (Tokyo University of Literature and Sciences) in 1932 and studied in the Department of Biology.

The same year he met a great Japanese mycologist, Dr. S. Kusano, and under the guidance of Dr. Kusano he began to study aquatic fungi. Soon after, Professor Indoh found *Monoblepharis polymorpha* in Japan. In 1910 he graduated from the university and entered the graduate school of the same university. He left Tokyo Bunrika Daigaku to become a lecturer of the Tokyo Higher Normal School in 1940. He was promoted to Professor in 1945. During the early stages of his mycological work, he focused his interest on the taxonomy of aquatic zoosporic fungi and published excellent papers on Oomycetes and Blastocladiacean chytrids. He also studied filamentous fungi such as *Arthrobotrys*, *Penicillioopsis*, and *Neurospora*.

In 1951, Professor Indoh was transferred to Tokyo University of Education as a professor with the change in the education system. He helped to organize the Mycological Society of Japan with the late Drs. Imazeki, Kobayasi, and Hiratsuka, and took part in the planning as the Secretary. The Society was inaugurated in February 1956.

His first paper on zygomycetous fungi, the genus *Spinellus*, was published in 1961 and was followed by an excellent paper on the genus *Syncephalis* the next year. He also began studying the ecology and taxonomy of Trichomycetes in collaboration with Dr. R.W. Lichtwardt, University of Kansas, USA, in 1963, and introduced this interesting fungal group to Japanese researchers. His re-



search on Zygomycetes developed smoothly, but became obstructed and was finally discontinued because of campus strife at that time. He successively held administrative posts in the University and carried out important missions until his retirement in 1972. After this, he moved to the Tokyo Women's Junior College of Physical Education as a professor. In 1974 he was inaugurated as the president of the Mycological Society of Japan and rendered great services to the society in promoting an interchange of researchers between Japan and foreign countries. His efforts finally bore fruit when IMC 3 was held in Tokyo in 1983. He was decorated for his academic achievements in academia and science education in 1980.

He devoted his life to the development of mycology and science education in Japan. We have truly lost the last great pioneer of mycology.

Personally, I met him in April 1964. Immediately after the entrance ceremony of Tokyo University of Education I learned that a tall person with beautiful silver hair was our class teacher. It was Professor Hiroharu Indoh. He has been the best teacher for me over a quarter of a century. I asked him for guidance on my graduation thesis, and that was how I started studying the ecology of fungi. I entered the graduate school and continued to study the ecology and taxonomy of microfungi under his guidance for 4 years until his retirement. During this period I was able to learn many things about nature from him. I realize that he was a great naturalist. A few years after he retired from the university,

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I obtained a position as an assistant at the same university and received much good advice on research from him until he was over 80 years of age.

There are few mycologists whom Professor Indoh guided directly. However, he educated many students to become

teachers of biology at high schools. He also made great contributions to the field of science education.

I would like to express my deepest sympathy for the loss of Professor Hiroharu Indoh, who is still my actual and ideal teacher.