

EDITORIAL

Akira Suzuki

## Fifty years of the Mycological Society of Japan: an overview focused on publication history of its scientific journals

The Mycological Society of Japan (MSJ), the oldest mycological society in Asia, is celebrating its 50-year anniversary this year, 2006. In 1956, the *Nippon Kingakukai Kaiho* (English translation: *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan*) was first published and became the first Asian scientific journal specializing in mycology. All articles in the first issue of the journal were written in Japanese. Two years later, a serial issue, “Materials for the fungus flora of Japan,” which was opened to all researchers willing to publish on the mycobiota in Japan, was first published in Japanese with the following authors: Imazeki, Tubaki, and Yamanouchi (1958) [*Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn.* 1(7):9–10]. This series can be placed as the origin of our activities making the inventory of fungi recorded in Japan, which should be one of the major activities of MSJ. The first original paper written in English, “Electron-microscopy of fungi (VI) Sporulation and germination of *Endomycolopsis capsularis*,” was published by Kawakami and Nehira (1958) in the first volume of the journal [*Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn.* 1(9):3–5]. Thereafter, the number of articles written in English has gradually increased. In 1994, *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan* was divided into two scientific journals, *Mycoscience* and *Nippon Kingakukai Kaiho*. The former title, published in English, specializes in all aspects of mycology. *Mycoscience* was the first broadly based international mycological journal to be published in Asia. The publication of *Mycoscience* has been an important activity of MSJ, along with holding an annual meeting and a fungal foray. *Nippon Kingakukai Kaiho* has been published in Japanese and is also specialized in mycology.

During the past 50 years, many excellent and important papers in mycology have been published in *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan* and *Mycoscience* by scien-

tists abroad as well as those in Japan. Most of those scientists who have contributed to both journals were MSJ members, and many also contributed topics at the annual meetings before their contribution to the journals. The numbers of articles on fungal taxonomy and ecology have been greater than those in other fields of mycology such as fungal physiology and industrial mycology.

Several well-accepted technical terms in mycology originated from articles in *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan* and *Mycoscience*. Among them, for example, is “Shiro,” cited in the articles published by Ogawa and Hamada (1965) [*Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn.* 6:67–71] and Ogawa (1976) [*Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn.* 17:176–187, 188–198]; “Shiro” has been used as a technical term by fungal ecologists internationally. The terms “urea fungi” and “proteophilous fungi” were first proposed in the articles published by Sagara (1973) [*Trans. Mycol. Soc. Jpn.* 14:41–46]. These terms were redefined as “ammonia fungi” based on additional experiments (Sagara 1975), and this name was cited in the *Dictionary of Fungi* (7th edition) (Hawksworth et al. 1983). “Archiascomycetes,” provisionally proposed in an article in *Mycoscience*, was also an epoch-making technical term in molecular systematics of fungi (Nishida and Sugiyama 1994) [35:361–366]. Several reviews published in *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan*, such as Bandoni (1984) [25:489–530], and in *Mycoscience*, such as Takamatsu (2004) [45:147–157], have contributed significantly to the development of fungal systematics.

The activities of Japanese mycologists, such as the proposal of a classification system of anamorphic fungi based on conidium ontogeny by Tubaki (1958) (known as the Hughes–Tubaki–Barron system) and an observation of the teleomorph of *Rhodotorula*, subsequent to a discovery of basidiomycetous yeasts by Banno (1967), have had a major impact worldwide over the past 50 years. The late Japanese scientists who produced great achievements in mycology are described in *A Brief History of Mycology in Japan*, which will be published in spring 2006 as a part of the events celebrating the 50th anniversary of MSJ.

MSJ previously published three special issues of *Transactions of the Mycological Society of Japan*. The first,

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volume 7, nos. 2 and 3, and volume 17, nos. 3 and 4, and volume 18, no. 1 (supplementary issue for the celebration), were published for the celebration of the 10th and 20th anniversaries, respectively, of MSJ. The second, for commemoration of our members who made great contributions to the advancement of mycology as well as to the development of MSJ, that is, volume 3, nos. 1–6, were published for the 88th birthday of Prof. Shunsuke Kusano (the 1st President of MSJ); volume 23, nos. 3 and 4, for the late Dr. Minouru Hamada (the 7th President of MSJ); and volume 32, no. 1, for the 88th birthday of Prof. Naohide Hiratsuka (the 2nd President of MSJ). The third, volume 15, no. 4, and volume 31, no. 1, were published for the proceedings of international symposia. MSJ has also published an extra issue, *Cercosporae of Japan* (Katsuki 1965).

Based on these histories, for celebrating the 50th anniversary of MSJ, volume 47 of *Mycoscience* will be published as special issues, which will include several invited review papers in each issue, or which will be composed of the proceedings of a symposium at the MSA (Mycological Society of America) and MSJ Joint Meeting held in Hawaii in August 2005 and also of the papers that will be presented at the BMS (British Mycological Society) and MSJ Joint Symposium at Chiba in June 2006.

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