

退し、同年4月に同大理学部助手に採用された。その翌々年の1960年に、指導教官の原寛教授が主宰する東京大学インド植物調査隊員として、インドのシッキム（当時は独立国）に植物調査に出かけた。この時に得た知見などにより、1962年に「日本ヒマラヤ要素の植物地理学的観察」のテーマで理学博士の学位を取得された。ヒマラヤにはその後も1963, 1967, 1972, 1977, 1983年に現地調査に出かけられた。さらに、1969年2月から1971年3月まで、コロンボプラン専門家としてネパールに派遣されている。その後も日本におけるヒマラヤとその植物のエキスパートとして、学会のみならず社会的にも活躍された。

1972年12月に国立科学博物館植物研究部に異動になり、同館が行っていたバプアニューギニアでの隠花植物調査にも参加された。加えて国内での野外調査も広範囲に及ぶが、注目されるのは第

二次・第三次尾瀬ヶ原総合学術調査で行った、池塘分布の綿密な経時変化の調査であろう。

金井さんの『日本地名索引』や『日本植物分類学文献総目録』を出版したアブック社の厚意で、2008年に『金井弘夫著作集』が刊行されることになった。私はその編集に携わったが、刊行後に金井さんからいただいた葉書で、(著作集に収載した)「ネパール通信」は、「私があちらでどんな生活をしたかの記録でして、どなたもご存知ないことなので、無理をして入れていただいたおかげで、皆さまにお話しできることはうれしいです」、との言葉を送っていただいた。

旧世代の植物分類学者といってしまうとそれまでだが、人間性に密着した学問の実践者として、金井さんは稀有な存在であったと思う。その思いは今も続いている。

## Obituary

### Keshab Raj RAJBHANDARI: Botanical Tours of Dr. Hiroo KANAI in Nepal

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K.R.Rajbhandari: 金井弘夫博士のネパール植物調査

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It is sad news that Dr. Hiroo Kanai, well-known Japanese botanist and a good friend of Nepal, has passed away on February 28th, 2022. He loved Nepal and the Nepalese very much. He started his botanical tour of Nepal in 1963 when Professor Hiroshi Hara of The University of Tokyo organized the second botanical expedition to eastern Nepal. The University (with Dr. Kanai in the team) again organized botanical expedition to the area including Nepal in May 1967, 1969 and 1972. The collected specimens amounted to about 60000. Dr. Hara and his colleagues identified them and the results of collections were

published in ‘The Flora of Eastern Himalaya’ and its second report edited by H.Hara (The University of Tokyo 1966, 1971) and ‘*Flora of Eastern Himalaya Third Report*’ edited by H.Ohashi (The University of Tokyo 1975). Dr. Kanai contributed relationships of plants between Himalaya and Japan (Kanai 1966a, b).

In February 1969 Dr. Kanai joined the Department of Medicinal Plants as a Colombo Plan advisor for two years, to cooperate with the botanical surveys of Nepal and further develop the National Herbarium of the Department. During his stay in Kathmandu his family

(wife and two sons) joined him and lived on the Thapathali hilltop and then at Kamal Pokhari. He concentrated his daily work on the rearrangement of herbarium specimens by giving those specimens species covers. Dr. Kanai participated in six official trips of botanical surveys in Nepal. The first official trip in which Dr. Kanai participated as an advisor was in April 1969, with Mr. M.S.Bista. They flew to Simra in the south, went east along the East-West Highway, then under construction, on foot for half a day, went north crossing the Churia and Mahabharat Ranges with numerous fordings via Makwanpur, and climbed up Mt. Phulchoki. It was the hottest season. Dr. Kanai became one of the few Japanese who entered the Kathmandu valley from the Indian Plain on foot. The second official trip was in June to Gosainkunda, with Dr. S.B.Malla. It was the occasion of a big festival in Gosainkunda. The third was the longest official trip held from June to July of 1970 to Chilime and Langtang, with Mr. P.R.Shakya. The fourth short trip was to Chandragiri in September 1970, with Mr. T.B.Shrestha. The fifth trip to Kalinchok was also in September, with Mr. T.B.Shrestha and Mr. S.R.Adhikari. The sixth and the last official trip in November 1970 was to Nijgadh, Makwanpur, Lothar and Narayanghat, with Mr. P.R.Shakya. All these trips were recorded in *Third Report* (1975) in detail with maps. Another was a ten day trip to Pokhara from Trisuli via Arughat and Tarku (Kanai 2002).

Dr. Kanai performed a series of vegetation survey on various types of forests in various places of central Nepal. The purpose of the study was to make clear quantitatively the change of vegetational compositions in central Nepal from south to north. This type of study was done for the first time in Nepal. Dr. Kanai performed the studies in cooperation with the staff of the Department. The study areas they chose were in Patlaia, Bagdeo, Narayani, Chisapani Garhi and Makwanpur Garhi in south, Phulchoki, Nagarjun, Kalingchok, Chandragiri

in middle and Chilime and Langtang in north region of central Nepal. The following forest types were surveyed: *Shorea robusta* forest, *Terminalia tomentosa* forest, *Acacia eburnea* forest, *Schima wallichii* forest, *Pinus* forest, Evergreen Oak forest, Broad-leaved forests, *Quercus semecarpifolia* forest, *Rhododendron arboreum* forest, *Quercus lanuginosa* forest, *Abies spectabilis* forest, *Tsuga dumosa* forest, *Juniperus* forest, *Rhododendron arboreum* var. *campbelliae* forest, *Rhododendron campanulatum* forest, and *Betula utilis* forest. Dr. Kanai, with P.R.Shakya and T.B.Shrestha of the Department, compiled these results in a paper '*Vegetation Survey of Central Nepal*' in 1975 (Kanai et al. 1975).

I first met Dr. Kanai in 1983 on a botanical expedition of Professor Hideaki Ohba of the University of Tokyo. I had already heard from my senior colleagues about Dr. Kanai 'how hard working he was', 'more work, less talk' and 'work and work only'. This is what I found when I first met him and it was the same during the whole field trip of about one and half months during my travel with him. It was a Mustang-Manang trip in central Nepal. We were in the field for about 40 days from July 5th to August 14th. During the field trip on one day I collected a lot of plant specimens and I pressed them in my tent up to late at night. It was 2 o'clock AM when I came out I saw candle light in Dr. Kanai's tent and shadow of his body moving. During breakfast he told us that he was pressing plants up to 3 AM and then went to sleep for two hours. On that day we started our trekking at 8 AM and walked for the whole day. I found him a tireless botanist always in his pursuit of information and when in the field he was continuously writing notes in a small pocket book on all he saw.

Dr. Kanai published '*Index Gazetteer of the Himalaya ed. 5*' in 1988 (Publication of Japan Nepal Society, Department of Botany, National Science Museum, Tokyo). This gazetteer was compiled to locate Himalayan place names by means of numerical index. Each place name is

given longitude and latitude data to find the place. This gazetteer is very useful for the botanists working on the Himalayan plants to locate the unknown place name given in the label of the herbarium.

It is true that Kanai's collections of plants and researches in Nepal contributed a lot to the development of Himalayan botany. However, his opinion is that the mutual cooperation of Nepalese and Japanese botanists is required for further successful development of Himalayan botany (Kanai 2002). His specimens are mainly preserved in the Herbarium of The University of Tokyo and duplicates are in the Herbarium of the Department of Plant Resources in Nepal. In Nepal, he will always be remembered by these specimens and in the botanical world, he will always remain in our mind by the plants with his names (*Carex kanaii*, *Crotalaria kanaii*, *Elaeagnus kanaii*, *Poa kanaii*, *Pilea kanaii*, *Saxifraga kanaii*, etc.). The international botanical community has lost one of its most remarkable personalities. His memory will never fade.

I will always be obliged to him for encouraging me to do further research in Nepalese plants. I pray to God for his eternal peace.

金井弘夫博士の死去のニュースでショックを受けた。彼はネパールでよく知られた日本人植物学者

であり、ネパールの友人だった。1969年2月から2年間彼はネパール政府薬草局植物標本館にコロナボプラン指導者として滞在し、ネパールの植物調査と標本館の整備を指導した。彼は薬草局スタッフと共にネパールで初めての植生調査を行ってその結果を発表した。私は1983年に金井博士に初めて出会った。以来常にネパール植物研究に対する彼の熱意を受け継いで研究を続けてきた。金井博士の名は *Carex kanaii*, *Crotalaria kanaii*, *Elaeagnus kanaii*, *Poa kanaii*, *Pilea kanaii*, *Saxifraga kanaii* などと共にいつまでも私達に記憶されるだろう。ご冥福をお祈りする。

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