

Professor Wu Cheng-yih:

a pioneer botanist devoted to establishing a Sino-Himalayan research framework

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I still vividly remember the day in September, 1980, when I received a telephone call informing me of the visit of Professor Wu Cheng-yih to Nikko. At that time I was the curator of the branch botanical garden of the University of Tokyo in Nikko, Japan. On the next day I met Professor Wu for the first time as we walked together in and around the botanical garden in rainy and chilly weather. Despite the weather he was eager to discover tiny herbs of *Aster*, *Isodon* and other Asteraceae and Lamiaceae.

As we were walking in the field, he asked me about my interests. I told him of my impressions of the alpine flora and vegetation of the eastern Himalaya and of the species diversity in particular in *Rhodiola* and *Arenaria*. I had been to that areas during the summer season in 1972 and 1977 as a member of the research team organized by the late Professor Hiroshi Hara of the University of Tokyo.

Professor Wu appeared to be excited about my interest in alpine plants. Then, he asked about my interest in the Chinese flora. At that time I was studying species diversity and classification of *Rhodiola* and related genera of Crassulaceae. Those genera are concentrated in the alpine zone of western China, including Yunnan, Sichuan and Tibet, so that it was absolutely impossible to avoid his question.

Since 1983 I had started new field work in the Himalaya of Nepal. One of the main purposes was to study the alpine flora using various techniques. I invited Mr. Wu Su-gong, Kunming, to our research in Nepal.

After that I visited Kunming for the first time in 1987, Professors Wu Cheng-yih and Zhou Jun organized a joint botanical research with Professor Kunio Iwatsuki, University of Tokyo, who brought me a member.

The next year, in 1988, probably through the courtesy of Wu Cheng-yih, Wu Su-gong and Iwatsuki, I participated in comprehensive scientific research in the Kunlun Mountains under the auspices of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. I was the only foreign participant.

I believe that Professor Wu had kept our talk at Nikko in his mind. At that time I expressed my hope to study the alpine flora in northwestern China. While staying in Kunming, I met Professor Wu several times. In our talks about the Sino-Himalaya as a floristic region and its origin and diversity, we discussed deeply the discontinuity of vertical zonation of the vegetation. In the Sino-Himalaya, a so-called cool temperate forest zone consisting of deciduous broadleaved trees does not exist. Our discussion focused on this phenomenon and potential reasons. I still suppose that zonal extension of deciduous vegetation might have been impossible



1989年，大场秀章（右）、岩槻邦男（左）与吴教授在东京大学综合资料馆植物陈列馆



under the extremely rapid uplift of the Tibetan Plateau.

Since 1988 I have sent various research teams to the alpine areas in the Sino-Himalayan region in collaboration with the Department of Forestry and Soils, Nepal, the Kunming Institute of Botany, and others.

During the 15th International Botanical Congress, Yokohama in 1993, David Boufford and I organized a symposium on the Sino-Japanese Floristic Region (Boufford and Ohba 1998). Professor Wu addressed ‘Delineation and unique features of the Sino-Japanese Floristic region’ (Wu 1998).

In the same year, 1993, the first paper on the phylogenetics of flowering plants by Chase et al. appeared. This marked a new epoch in botany. Professor Wu was stupendously busy to accomplish his ‘eight class system’ of angiosperms, and engaged in publishing volume 17, the first volume to appear, of the English version of the Flora of China by Wu and Raven, containing the Verbenaceae, Lamiaceae and Solanaceae, which was published in 1994.

Under such circumstances Wu prepared his comprehensive lecture on the Sino-Japanese Floristic region. I think this is an important paper that discusses the features and delimitation of the Sino-Himalayan region following Takhtajan (1986). Professor Wu added the Eastern Himalaya North Wing Province as one of the floristic provinces in China. I remember our discussions on the framework of the Sino-Himalayan region.

I visited Kunming in 1996 on the occasion of the celebration of his 80th birthday. After that I had no chance to meet him again. For me the Sino-Himalaya was still enigmatic, but this might be him.

References

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吴征镒教授:

建立中国—喜马拉雅植物区系研究框架的先驱

大场秀章

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我至今仍清晰地记得：那是1980年9月的一天，当时我还是东京大学植物园日光分园的负责人，来电告诉我说吴征镒教授要造访日光分园。翌日，我第一次见到了吴教授，尽管天空下着小雨且略带凉意，我们一道参观了植物园，吴教授还饶有兴致地找到了紫菀属、香茶菜属以及菊科和唇



形科的其他植物类群。

我们边走边聊，他问起了我的研究兴趣，我告诉他我对东喜马拉雅高山植物区系和植被，特别是对红景天属和无心菜属植物感兴趣，1972至1977年的夏季，作为东京大学已故原宽教授（Hiroshi Hara）领导的考察队成员之一，我多次前往东喜马拉雅地区进行植物学考察。

吴教授得知我喜欢高山植物似乎很开心，他接着问起我是否对中国的相关类群感兴趣。那时候我正在研究景天科红景天属及其近缘类群的物种多样性和分类学，这些类群的许多种类集中分布于中国西部高山地区，包括云南、四川和西藏，他的问题可谓正中我下怀！

1983年起，我在尼泊尔的喜马拉雅山脉组织了新一轮的植物学考察，试图运用多种实验手段以研究高山植物，期间我们邀请了昆明植物研究所的武素功教授加入我们的考察队开展野外工作。

1987年我首访昆明植物研究所，当时吴征镒教授和周俊教授与东京大学的岩槻邦男教授组织了一个植物学合作研究项目，我受邀作为项目组成员之一。翌年（1988年），承蒙吴征镒、武素功和岩槻邦男三位先生的举荐，我有幸参加了中国科学院组织的喀喇昆仑山—昆仑山地区综合科学考察，我可是考察队里唯一的外国人。在日光分园，我曾表达过要研究中国西北地区高山植物的愿望，我猜想是吴教授一直把我们在日光的谈话记在心中，所以促成了我参加昆仑山考察。

在昆明的那段时间，我们经常见面，一起探讨中国—喜马拉雅植物区系的多样性及其起源的问题。我们还深入讨论过喜马拉雅地区的植被垂直带谱中缺少落叶阔叶林组成的寒温林带问题，共同分析了这一现象及其可能的原因。我仍然认为是由于青藏高原的快速隆升导致了落叶阔叶林在高山植被带中的缺失。

我和尼泊尔林业和土地部、中国科学院昆明植物研究所及其他机构合作，从1988年开始派出了不同的研究小组到中国-喜马拉雅地区开展工作。

在1993年日本横滨召开的第十五届国际植物学大会上，美国哈佛大学的戴维·鲍夫德（David Boufford）和我共同组织了中国-日本植物区系的分会场（Boufford and Ohba 1998），吴教授做了题为“中国-日本植物区系的分界及特征”的主题报告（Wu 1998）。

同年（1993年），Chase等人发表了有花植物系统发育学的首篇文章，开创了植物学的新纪元。那时吴教授正全身心地投入在“被子植物八纲系统”的编研，以及首卷《中国植物志》英文修订版的出版（即1994年出版的第17卷，包括马鞭草科、唇形科和茄科等）。即使在如此忙碌的情况下，他还认真准备了他在横滨所做的大会报告。我认为这是继塔赫他间（Takhtajan, 1986年）之后探讨中国—喜马拉雅植物区系特征和界定的重要文章。在区系划分中，吴教授新增了东喜马拉雅北翼地区。我们一起讨论中国—喜马拉雅植物区系的场景至今仍令我记忆犹新。

我在1996年庆祝他80岁生日时到访过昆明。之后，便再没机会见到他了。对我而言，中国-喜马拉雅依然是高深莫测的，可吴教授却独具心得。

（翻译：杨雅）

