

## PREFACE

Innumerable students, colleagues and friends of Kyosuke Tsuda, Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo and Present-day President of Kyoritsu College of Pharmacy, take pleasure in congratulating him on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Tsuda is not only a distinguished organic chemist but also a much respected teacher and efficient administrator and organizer of science. His achievements in the field of natural compounds are numerous and he has always been among the leaders of progress. Between 1931 and 1968 he published over 200 papers; the broad spectrum of his active engagements included alkaloids, heterocycles, steroids, terpenoids, antibiotics and microbiological transformations. Many of the compounds he studied still capture the fancy of connoisseurs, among them: helvolic acid, ophiobolin and tetrodotoxin. His persistence as a scientist and his deep seated love for a problem are illustrated by two of his papers: his earliest publication with his teacher, Professor Heizaburo Kondo, in 1931 about the structure elucidation of the alkaloid matrine, and the paper about the absolute configuration of this compound, which appeared 1966 at the end of his active research career.

In 1967, after the mandatory retirement of Professor Tsuda at the age of 60 he did not disappear from the professional stage since he became an authoritative leader of pharmaceutical education and Chairman of the Central Pharmaceutical Affairs Council of Japan.

His scientific achievements, services to science and the academic community, his very decisive but always discreet and utmost friendly manner make it easily understandable why he is regarded as one of the scientific leaders in his country, and why he is considered to be one of the godfathers of the current generation of outstanding Japanese chemists. Prof. Tsuda is a most gracious host, and in his extensive travels abroad he has also been a most welcome and amiable guest. His ability to charm his fellow scientists has made him an ambassador of Japanese chemistry throughout the world.

For his distinguished services to science, education and industry, Professor Tsuda has received many honours. To mention only a few: he was elected as a member of Japan Academy, awarded several high decorations by the Emperor, and finally he was

selected in November 1980 as the Person of Merits of Culture.

The author of this preface is privileged to look back on a long and happy personal and scientific relationship with Professor Tsuda which consequently led to many strong ties with the younger generation of his students and successors. It is an honour and a pleasure for all of us contributing to this issue to extend very best wishes to Kyosuke Tsuda for his continued activities, happiness and health.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Oskar Jeger". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Oskar Jeger