

FOREWORD

It was on a day of October 1953, when the senior editor met Professor Tohru Abé for the first and last time, who visited the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory as one among those on the excursion organized at the annual meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan held in Kyoto. The editor then was interested in planktology, knew the tremendous amount of elaborate works being done by Professor Abé on the armoured dinoflagellates, and was longing earnestly for the publication of them. The editor thought of publishing them in the journal of the Laboratory, if possible. It was, however, impossible for the editor to be so eloquent as to persuade Professor Abé to make up his mind to complete his manuscripts for publication. Rather, a certain common feeling flowed with a wine cup between Professor Abé and the editor at that evening might have the influence. At first, Professor Abé threatened the editor by mentioning so large volume of his manuscripts. Naturally, the editor was frightened by this, but, after a pause for a moment, he dared to respond to it calmly. Professor Abé promised to start preparing his manuscripts for publication in the journal of the Laboratory.

Professor Abé was a man of very strong personality, his nature was far remote from flattering those in authority. These were reflected in his works. His research and observation were thorough and his thoughts were full of original views. Detailed descriptions and figures took long time and made his manuscripts longer and longer on one hand, and on the other hand his opinions were unique enough to make some of the editors hesitate to accept his manuscripts easily. The first part of his Monograph of the Armoured Dinoflagellata had to wait to appear in the laboratory's journal until 1966, thirteen years after that cordial meeting. Meanwhile, the unpublished manuscripts were accumulated on his desk, in the fate to be left behind their author in 1971.

After the death of Professor Abé, Mrs Hideko Abé deeply hoped to realize the wish of her husband and to publish his immense work left at her expense as an issue of the Special Publications from the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory. The plan was accepted by the Laboratory, and Professor Minoru Saitô of Yokohama National University kindly attempted to take up the task of checking the manuscripts. The main part of the manuscripts included the studies of the families Peridinidae and Ceratidae. In the part of the Ceratidae, both the descriptions and figures were still in unsatisfactory state in many cases. In the part of the Peridinidae, however, the descriptions were type-written already, although many figures were found in pencil-work and most of the textfigures were not yet arranged nor placed on backing-board for printing. It was certainly a complicate, time-consuming and no light task at all to strengthen the pencil-works suitable for printing, to consult with the respective descriptions in the text to ascertain the figure numbers and to arrange them in order. Thus, almost ten years have passed, that in-

curred an increasing financial pressure through steadily going inflation. Therefore, it was decided to publish firstly the part of the Peridinidae separately, as they were left in the manuscripts as far as possible. Efforts and responsibility to meet the problems concerning the publication were left to the junior editor and the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory.

It is evident that significant improvements and progresses have been made in the study and techniques of observation on armoured dinoflagellates, particularly by adopting the scanning electron microscopy. Nevertheless, the results of detailed observations made by Professor Abé under the traditional light microscope must retain an incomparable importance in the systematic study of armoured dinoflagellates and involve a great deal of stimulations for those specialized in the study of this group of organisms. The sentiment for publishing this may in some way be looked as of old-days, but it is earnestly hoped that this publication, issued in cooperation of Mrs H. Abé, Professor M. Saitô and the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, will be appreciated properly.

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Shirahama.