In Memoriam: Professor Jung Hee Park (1950–2017)

Jung Hee Park, Professor Emeritus of Suwon University, Korea, passed away on 19 August 2017. She was born in Yecheon county, Gyeongsangbuk-do province in South Korea on 17 April 1950 as the first daughter of an Elder of a Christian Church. She grew up in a family of Christian faith. To pursue higher education, Professor Park and her family moved to Seoul, and she entered Ewha Womans University in 1969 to major biology. In August 1979, she received her M.S. degree in Animal Taxonomy at Ewha Womans University, and she finished her Doctoral degree (D.Sc.) in 1985 at Ewha Womans University.

It is evident that Professor Park had an illustrious career. She has been a member of the Faculty at Suwon University since 1988 and became Professor Emeritus in 2015. She successfully served as the chairman at the Department of Biology and dedicated herself as the head of the Research Institute of Basic Science in Suwon University. Her devotion to the Korean Society of Systematic Zoology was highlighted serving as a member of this society and the president (2005–2007). Throughout her career Professor Park emerged herself to taxonomic studies as well as teaching. Professor Park’s research on Hydroid in Hydrozoa started from 1979 (Rho and Park, 1979), and she has published more than 40 papers. Her most remarkable works are describing more than 160 new records from Korea including one species of fresh water Hydra and six species of Scyphozoa. Until present, 189 new records of Korea Hydra have been described. Her best known articles are monographs which deal with 77 species/subspecies of the Thecata (Vol. 4, No. 1, Park, 2010), 24 species of the order Athecata (Vol. 4, No. 2, Park, 2011), and 29 species of the Hydromedusae (Vol. 4, No. 3, Park, 2012) in Class Hydrozoa in journal of Flora and Fauna of Korea, National Institute of Biological Resources, Ministry of Environment. She donated all the specimens and the valuable collected papers to National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea, Seocheon, Republic of Korea.

We remember Professor Park for her dedication to research, the passion in the education towards her students, a positive demeanor as well as the joy she shared in the company of others, during her courageous battle against her illness. We will cherish, forever, the peace of heart she has shown us. Even during the late stages of her illness, she gifted us with the photos of seasonal flowers from the foothills of the Gwanak Mountain in Seoul. A beautiful picture of flower blooming on Beryong tree (Lagerstroemia indica) was last to us. She said, “Autumn will be here after these flowers are gone.”

Her faith allowed her to indwell in peace as she relied on God completely during her illness, and we believe she rest her soul in Heaven. Those who had been fortunate enough to know Jung Hee will remember her and long for her indefinitely.

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REFERENCES

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