

**Makoto Numata**



Makoto Numata is Professor Emeritus of Ecology in the Department of Biology, Chiba University, Japan. He has had a profound global influence on basic and applied ecology.

In 1953, he received the D.Sc. degree at the University of Kyoto based upon his thesis, "Studies in Basic Structures of Plant Communities." The same year he published the monumental book, "Methodology of Ecology." The significance of his early applications of advanced mathematics to ecological sampling and analysis was recognized immediately. His stochastic models of community structure and distribution, methods of random sampling, and coefficients of homogeneity have been cited by major texts throughout the world.

Professor Numata has had extensive interaction with some of our foremost American ecologists. In his early years he communicated extensively with Professor W. S. Cooper regarding theories of plant succession. Later, R. H. Whittaker applied Numata's dominance-diversity curves to the analysis of North American plant communities. Professor Numata's quantitative index of succession has been used throughout the world to describe successional seres and trends and their dynamic relationships to conditions of environment and management. Professor Numata has over four hundred scientific publications, near-

ly one-quarter of these in English. He has written twenty-five books since his initial book on ecological methods. These include: *Plant Ecology*, 1959; *Applied Ecology*, 1963; *Nature Conservation and Ecology*, 1973; *The Flora and Vegetation of Japan*, 1974; *Succession and its Mechanisms in Plant Communities*, 1976; *Ecology of Grasslands and Bamboolands in the World*, 1979; *Biology and Ecology of Weeds*, 1982.

To increase information available to Japanese students Professor Numata translated several German- and English-language texts into Japanese. These include: R. Knapp's *Experimentelle Soziologie der höheren Pflanzen* in 1962; K. E. F. Watt's *Principles of Environmental Science*, 1975; and G. E. Neals' *Woodland Ecology*, 1973.

In addition to research and teaching, Professor Numata has served Japan and the international community of ecologists as a leader in numerous organizations. These include: President, Weed Society of Japan, 1975-78; President, Ecological Society of Japan, 1976-79; Chairman, Urban Ecology Working Group of INTECOL; Environmental Biology Representative to IUBS; Member of the Commission on Ecology and Education of the IUCN.

The recent book, *Man's Impact on Vegetation*, edited by Holzner, Werger and Ikusima, Dr. W. Junk, Publishers, 1983, was dedicated to Professor Numata to "honor the vestor of Japanese plant ecology who will celebrate his 65th birthday and will be retiring from office." Professor Numata is still extremely active, as judged by his participation in the new Himalayan Expedition in Bhutan and a recent expedition in western China. We are extremely pleased to award Professor Makoto Numata honorary membership in the Ecological Society of America.

Written by Dr. J. Frank McCormick  
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