

PREFACE

There are some men who are born to be larger than life. Professor Tetsuji Kametani is a perfect example. He has enjoyed a brilliant career in three different Universities rising to high office in Tohoku University. He has received many honours and has given generously of his time in the service of Science. His role as Founding Editor of the journal of "HETEROCYCLES" is specially to be noted.

Professor Kametani started his career under the wise guidance of Professor Shigehiko Sugasawa on the problem of the synthesis of the alkaloid emetine. Nearly all his research has been devoted to alkaloid chemistry.

Professor Kametani completed his Ph.D. in Tokyo University in 1951, his degree being delayed by the War and its aftermath. After his move to Osaka University in the same year he quickly established an international reputation and had published already 50 papers before being appointed to Tohoku University in 1959. From that time Prof. Kametani's career blossomed like a Japanese cherry tree. In the next 20 years he published nearly a thousand paper on alkaloid chemistry mostly on the synthesis of important members of this group of compounds.

Most scientists do their best work when they are young. Professor Kametani is the exception. The more he has done, the better has become the quality of his work. His latest synthetic studies using his principle of 'Retro Mass Spectral Analysis' have been particularly brilliant and fruitful. His latest synthetic work on thienamycin is in the same category.

Professor Kametani has also gained a highly respected international reputation for his capacities in activities extracurricular to the Organic Chemistry laboratory. He is even said, on one occasion, to have made the late Professor Woodward jealous! We all wish Professor Kametani many happy years of vigorous life to continue to pursue his search for excellence both within and without the laboratory.



Derek Barton

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