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Preface

Jiro Tanaka

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FUMIO OGURA



Fumio Ogura was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1932 and graduated from Osaka University in 1957. He graduated from the doctoral course at Osaka University in 1962 and was appointed as a research associate to Professor Masazumi Nakagawa in the Department of Chemistry of Osaka University in the same year. During his period at Osaka University he studied the optical rotatory power and structure of triptycene derivatives, which provided a milestone in structural organic chemistry. He spent the year 1974 at Princeton University with Professor Kurt Mislow and studied other aspects of hetero-atom chemistry.

In 1978 he was appointed an associate professor of synthetic organic chemistry at Hiroshima University; he was promoted to the chair of the same department in 1979. He worked at Hiroshima University until 1995 and became Emeritus Professor on the occasion of his retirement at the age of 63. He was transferred to the Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Engineering, Kinki University, at Higashi-Hiroshima in the same year.

Around 1970, tetrathiafluvalene (TTF) was discovered essentially simultaneously by various research groups of Wudl, Coffen and Hunig, and the highly conducting organic crystal TTF = TCNQ was prepared by Cowan and Bloch (1973) and Garito and Heeger (1973). Since then, tremendously significant papers have appeared on the physics and chemistry of one-dimensional conductors. Among them, Klaus Bechgaard and D. Jérôme found superconductivity of organic crystals for the first time on tetramethyl-tetraselenafluvalene (TMTSF). Inspired by these findings, many organic chemists aimed at preparing new organic donors or acceptors which may give either metal or superconductors. The synthesis of novel organic conductors is a subject of great importance; however, the realization of such a molecule needs thoughtful insight and a particular talent on synthesis.

Professor Ogura conducted the research on this problem by joining his long careers on heavy chalcogen chemistry with the development of a new organic conductor. Many highly conducting organic compounds were prepared, and he has published more than 50 papers on this subject. In 1992 he received an award from the Chemical Society of Japan for his research entitled "Studies on New Organic Electron Donors and Acceptors Containing Heteroatoms". He has also published nearly 50 papers on heavy chalcogene chemistry.

He has been a sincere chemist, devoting his life to the development of novel organic molecules with particular structure and electrical properties. He has a kind and warm personality with a tenacity to perform new research on synthetic organic chemistry. We have always been happy with him in collaboration research, and we wish to congratulate him on his retirement from Hiroshima University. We hope he will still develop his interests and continue research in synthetic organic chemistry.

Jiro Tanaka