Special Issue

Memories of Professor Hiroki Murakami

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The late Professor Hiroki Murakami and I attended Kyushu University together. We both studied in the same graduate school and received the Ph. D. in Agricultural Chemistry at the same time. He then took a position in the Department of Food Chemistry and Technology at Kyushu University, and I took a position in the Department of Agricultural Chemistry. In 1989, when Kyushu University established a new Graduate School of Genetic Resources Technology, we both joined this group, and once again worked in the same graduate school. We often enjoyed relaxing together after work. Hiroki preferred beer, while I favored various kinds of Japanese Sake. In these high-spirited times Hiroki often proposed unique and individualistic scientific concepts, and I much admired the vitality with which he pursued the realization of his ideas.

Both of us took the opportunity to study in USA at about the same time. I think his stay in USA was very beneficial in advancing both his research and his view of life. He brought back to Japan many items of furniture, including a dining table which he loved

during his stay in USA. Later on his trips to foreign countries, he bought many things; not just small ones but also large ones which had to be sent to Japan by ship. But much more than his appreciation of foreign products was the value he put on his many friends all over the world. He worked hard to maintain those friendships. I think Hiroki was a very warm hearted person with an open and amicable mind.

At his home he enjoyed growing various kinds of flowers. I know that he especially liked lilies and his wife also told me that he liked white Casablanca very much. Professor Murakami worked actively not only in Japan, but all over the world. By accident, I was present when he suddenly experienced a cerebral hemorrhage. Many people thought of him as robust, never suffering serious diseases. I believed luck favored him, so even now it is unbelievable to me that he has really passed away. Although Hiroki was sometimes misunderstood and had opponents, I feel that Hiroki carried out his life with a pure soul.