

## An introduction to the MEDAKA symposium

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(The organizers of MEDAKA symposia)

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The MEDAKA Symposia are a series of symposia on different topics on zoological science to which significant contributions have been made by using the medaka as material. The objective of the symposium is to bring together diverse workers from different fields of zoology to discuss the roles and possibility of the medaka as an experimental animal for zoological science.

The first MEDAKA Symposium was held on October 7, 1987 on "Genetic Approach to Speciation" as a satellite symposium of the 58th Annual Meeting of the Zoological Society of Japan in Toyama. This symposium was chaired by Dr. T. Iwamatsu. Three speakers, Drs. K. Moriwaki, H. Uwa, and M. Sakaizumi, presented papers, and over 50 persons attended the symposium.

The second one in Sapporo (October 5, 1988) was on "New Experimental Animals under Genetic Control" chaired by Dr. A. Shima. Papers were presented by Drs. K. Oowada and M. Hoshi, by Dr. Y. Hyodo-Taguchi, and by Drs. T. Nakamura, S. Tochinai and C. Katagiri, and 47 persons in all participated.

The third one in Kyoto (October 5, 1989) was chaired by Dr. K. Yamagami on "Fertilization in Fish". Three papers, by Drs. K. Shimamoto and S. Ito, by Dr. T. Iwamatsu, and by Dr. Y. Inoue, were

invited, and 64 persons participated in this symposium.

The fourth MEDAKA symposium in Niigata (October 3, 1990) was chaired by Dr. Y. Nagahama on "Oogenesis — Co-operation between Germ Cells and Somatic Cells —". Papers were presented by Drs. S. Hamaguchi and N. Shibata, by Drs. T. Hamasaki and K. Yamagami, and by Drs. M. Amano and A. Kawahara, and 74 persons attended the symposium.

The fifth MEDAKA Symposium in Okayama (October 13, 1991) was on "Biology of Pigment Cells" chaired by Dr. R. Fujii. Dr. H. Tomita, Dr. M. Obika, and Dr. T. Takeuchi presented papers, and 67 participants joined the discussion.

The sixth one was chaired by Dr. K. Onitake (October 7, 1992 in Sendai) under the title of "Spermatogenesis — Controlling Mechanisms and Gene Expression —". Dr. T. Miura, Dr. S. Abe, and Dr. H. Fujimoto presented papers. 60 persons participated in.

The proceedings of the MEDAKA Symposium written in Japanese are published annually. We hope that this series of symposia could present some new viewpoints to the researchers who are working on the medaka as well as those who are interested in the topic of each symposium.