

Field Trip in Wakayama Prefecture, Japan[©]

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The 13th Annual Conference of IPPS Japan Region was held in Wakayama on 15 and 16 July 2006. There were 35 participants, and eight papers were presented in the session.

On the 2nd day, 16 July 2006, participants enjoyed the field trip in Wakayama area. It was a very fine day and exceptionally hot for the rainy season in July. The group drove to the south from Wakayama city and visited Koike Nursery Co. Ltd. (Fig. 1A, B, and C). Koike Nursery is one of the biggest in the western part of Japan and propagates seedlings of vegetables and flowers. The products are sold to farmers and wholesalers as well as DIY shops for amateur gardeners. The seedlings are propagated under an enclosed environmental systems controlled by computers.

The next visit was to Bio-Center Nakatsu (Fig. 2), which is run under the subsidy of Nakatsu village municipality. Seedlings of *Gypsophila* and *Lilium japonicum*, which is indigenous to the Kii peninsula, Japan, are propagated by tissue culture methods. *Lilium japonicum* is propagated not only for horticultural use but also for the rehabilitation of environment and germplasm conservation in this area. In addition, the center produces unique ornamentals, which are called “flask-plants.” Plants are grown on the medium with some colors in the small vials as same size as 100-ml flask under aseptic condition.

Finally, the group visited the experimental farm of Kinki University (Fig. 3A, B, and C). About 200 cultivars and strains of *Citrus* species are maintained in the orchard. The conservation of indigenous species such as *C. junos*, *C. tachibana*, *C. unshiu* and so forth is tremendous. Some variegated strains and dwarfed strains will be used for ornamentals. These plant materials are used for the taxonomical study of *Citrus*, which is still controversial. New chemicals will be found from fruits for dietary purposes.

Participants went back to Wakayama station, said good-bye and promised to meet again next year in Miyazaki.



Figure 1A. Discussion at Koike Nursery Co. Ltd. The third person from the left is Mr. Koike.



Figure 1B. Soil and compost mixer at Koike Nursery Co. Ltd.



Figure 1C. The incubator for grafted plants. Temperature, humidity, and light intensity in the incubator are automatically regulated. Grafted plants are acclimatized for a couple of days in the incubator before shipping.

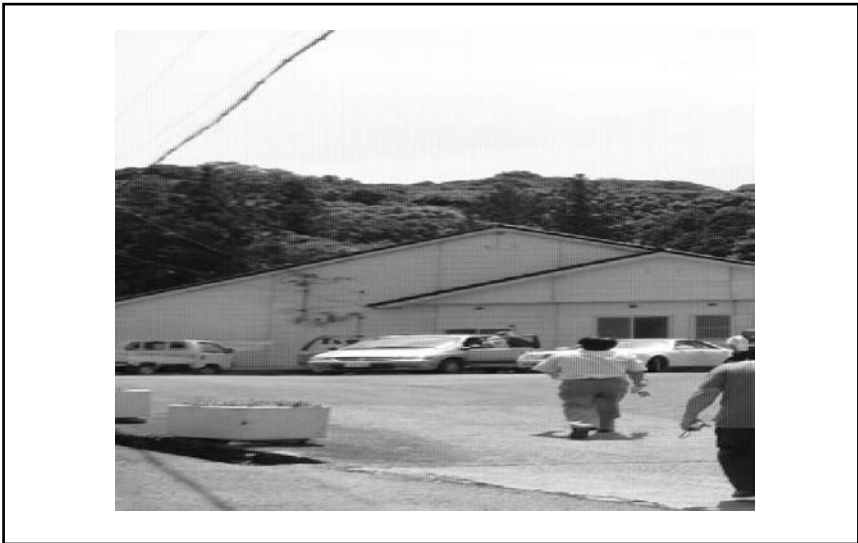


Figure 2. The long way to Bio-Center Nakatsu under strong sunshine.



Figure 3A. Citrus germplasm at the experiment farm of Kinki University.



Figure 3B. Nursery field of citrus plants. Plants are grafted on trifoliate orange rootstock.



Figure 3C. Variegated fruit (chimera?) of satsuma mandarin found in the collection. The taste of fruit is absolutely satsuma mandarin. Some variations of variegated types are found.