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【通訊三】 2021年12月3日

#### 走進時光隧道 細說標本館的傳承

胡秀英教授曾自喻為「一粒芥菜種」(註 1),芥菜種雖小,但長大後卻能成為大樹,如同胡教授破蛹成蝶的學術過程。自金陵女子大學透過她的良師接觸到生物系以後,胡教授便自此沉醉於大自然裡,後來更前往嶺南大學和哈佛大學繼續深造植物學。在進修的過程中,這棵芥菜種逐漸成長之餘,不忘把植物學的知識和經驗透過教育傳授下一代。及後受邀到中文大學崇基學院擔任生物系高級講師,更是進一步體現其「厚生」(註 2) 精神,實踐活著不單是為了自己,而是用自己的智慧和能力幫助他人。

中文大學生命科學學院胡秀英植物標本館 (下稱「標本館」) 自 2012 年成立至今,一直秉承胡教授的「厚生」精神,結合植物學研究及教育工作,致力透過學校及公眾教育推動知識轉移。為配合香港生物多樣性節,標本館於 11 月 13 日(日)舉行「胡秀英植物標本館參觀及校園植物導賞 2021」,從而增加公眾了解植物標本館的工作和植物於生態系統中的重要性。

活動當日,標本館館長劉大偉博士帶領公眾人士一同認識館內歷史,以及了解植物分類學的現今應用。透過現場解說和親身體驗,各位參觀來賓猶如走進了時光隧道,深切體會胡教授和歷屆研究人員艱辛的學術歷程和對植物分類學研究的無私奉獻。

及後,劉博士帶領參加者繞著中文大學的一條寧靜小徑,在環境清幽的氣氛下學習辨認各種植物。 驀地,眾人被眼前一棵紅果綠葉的植物吸引,經詳細介紹,這棵滿掛紅色小果的小樹正是由胡教授 命名的小果鐵冬青,各參加者均對眼前這棵滿載故事的植物讚嘆不已。

文:李敏貞、王曉欣圖:李敏貞、梁焯彥

註 1: 馬太福音 13:31 「(芥菜種) 這原是百種裡最小的,等到長起來,卻比各樣的菜都大,且成了

樹,天上的飛鳥來宿在它的枝上。」

註 2:約翰福音 10:10 「我來了,是要叫羊得生命,並且得的更豐盛。」



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[Newsletter No. 3]
Strolling Through the Time Tunnel
Telling the Inheritance of Herbarium

3 December 2021

Dr. Hu, Shiu-Ying once referred herself as a mustard seed (Remark 1), a plant that is so small before the seed germination and grows up into a large tree in the later stage. This resembles the academic journey of Dr. Hu, who had passed through a pupa to become a beautiful butterfly. Since Dr. Hu learned more about the biological field via her mentor in Ginling College, she began to immerse herself in the beauty of nature. Afterwards, Dr. Hu pursued her further studies at Lingnan University and Harvard University. Undertaking the advanced studies, Dr. Hu flourished in plant taxonomy in parallel with imparting related knowledge and experiences to the next generations. Thereafter, Dr. Hu was entrusted with responsibility for being the senior lecturer, Department of Biology in Chung Chi College, CUHK to further embody the spirit of "abundant life" (Remark 2), which means life is not merely living for your own, but sharing your wisdom and talents with others.

Since the establishment in 2012, Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium, School of Life Sciences, The Chinese University of Hong Kong ("Herbarium") has been upholding the spirit of Dr. Hu, Shiu-Ying in living a life with abundance. With the integration of botany research and educational efforts, Herbarium has endeavored to promote the advancement of knowledge transfer through school and public education. To dovetail with the Hong Kong Biodiversity Festival (HKBF), Herbarium launched a guided tour entitled "Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium Visit and Campus Plant Walk 2021" on 13 November (Saturday), aiming to enhance the public understanding of Herbarium work and to recognize the importance of plants in the ecosystem.

On the event day, Dr. David Lau, the curator of Herbarium provided a guided tour to the general public. This was to enable the participants to get familiar with the history of Herbarium, as well as the modern application of plant taxonomy. Through knowledge and experience sharing, all participants were plunged in an instant to take a step back in time to experience the arduous academic journeys and selfless dedication of Dr. Hu and previous researchers in plant taxonomy.

Strolling through the serene trail in CUHK, participants acquired plant identification techniques under the guidance of Dr. Lau. They were instantly attracted by the plant with red fruits and green leaves along the trail. After a detailed introduction, the fruiting plant was *Ilex rotunda* Thunb. var. *microcarpa* (Lindl. ex Paxton) S. Y. Hu, which its name was given by Dr. Hu. All the participants were fascinated by the story behind the amazing plant.

Text: Li Man Ching, Wong Hiu Yan Photo: Li Man Ching, Leung Cheuk Yin



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Remark 1: "(A mustard seed) it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." Matthew 13:31

Remark 2: "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10

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#### [參觀相片 Photo of the Visit]



