

Field Excursion at IPPS Japan 18th Conference in Matsuyama[©]

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The annual meeting of IPPS-Japan this year was held in Matsuyama City, Ehime Prefecture (please visit <http://www.pref.ehime.jp/index-e.htm>).

The excursion was arranged on 16 Oct. 2011 to visit nurseries, a market, and research institute. In the morning, 30 participants left the Hotel in Dogo Hot Spring Spa, Matsuyama City (<http://www.city.matsuyama.ehime.jp/lang/en/sightseeing/dogo.html>).

The first visit was the Fruit Tree Research Center of Ehime Prefecture (Fig. 1a), which is located northeast of Matsuyama City, where the aim is to breed new citrus cultivars and to establish stable production of high quality citrus fruits. All the participants learned something important about the cultivation of citrus from explanation by research staff (Fig. 1b).

After a short drive, the delegates arrived on the Jaistation Mercato (organic market) and studied how they present and sell their products (Fig. 2). The participants were attracted to the many organic crops and processed goods.

After a lunch break, the trip went southward to visit the Shigematsu Garden in Matsumae Town, where Mr. Shigeru Shigematsu, the owner, has been devoted to the introduction of many taxa from both Australia and South African. Mr. Shigematsu imported and tested in vitro seedlings of over 160 native species and now he propagates commercially about 30 selected species, including *Anigozanthos*, *Bankisia*, and *Protea* spp. (Fig. 3).

The last visit was “Takenaka-Engei” (Takenaka Garden), which breeds and produces pot plants, especially many cultivars of cyclamen (*Cyclamen persicum* Mill.) (Fig. 4). Mr. Shuichi Takenaka, the owner, introduced many cultivars from overseas, and has established the techniques for cultivating them well in Ehime prefecture climate, a hot area in Japan.

At around 15:00, the excursion completed the trip, and the participants left for their home from Japan Railway Matsuyama Station.



Figure 1a. The Fruit Tree Research Center, Ehime Prefecture.



Figure 1b. Mr. Yano, Head of research section, who explains citrus cultivars to participants (left).



Figure 2a. “Jaistation mercato” (organic market).

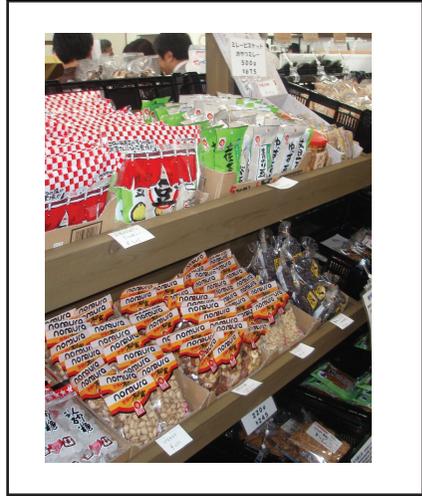


Figure 2b. Display of many processed agricultural foods.



Figure 3. Shigematsu Garden.



Figure 4. Takenaka-Engei.