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TAKING "THINGS" AS "NAMES": THE FIELD, KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION, AND MEANING CONSTRUCTION OF TAIWANESE BOTANY (1895-1945)[1]

TOMANDO "COISAS" COMO "NOMES": O CAMPO, A PRODUÇÃO DE CONHECIMENTO E A CONSTRUÇÃO DE SIGNIFICADO DA BOTÂNICA DE TAIWAN (1895-1945)

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Abstract: Naming is a universal culture that exists in human society. People not only name people, but also give names to things; Naming is also the manifestation of power and the production of knowledge, making power and knowledge coexist. During the Japanese occupation period, Tashiro Yasusada **田代安定** plant survey, "Tokyo University Plant Exploration"东京大学植物探险, the island wide "Useful Plant Survey"**有用植物**调查 and the plant collection of the "Taiwan Natural History Society"**台湾博物学会** all promoted the production of botanical knowledge in Taiwan. Their surveys were transformed between academic and political. The knowledge and achievements of production not only served the politics and economy of colonial rule, but also were used "locally" in school education, building multiple symbolic meanings. The plant survey in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period promoted the development of natural history in modern Taiwan.

Keywords: Japanese occupation period; Taiwan Botany 台湾植物学; Useful Plants Survey; Taiwan Natural History Society

Resumo: Nomear é uma cultura universal que existe na sociedade humana. As pessoas não apenas nomeiam as pessoas, mas também dão nomes às coisas; A nomeação é também a manifestação do poder e a produção do saber, fazendo coexistir o poder e o saber. Durante o período de ocupação japonesa, Tashiro Yasusada 田代安定 levantamento de plantas, "Tokyo University Plant Exploration"东京大学植物探险, o "Useful Plant Survey" em toda a ilha 有用植物调查 e a coleção de plantas da "Taiwan Natural History Society"台湾博物学会 todos promoveram a produção de conhecimento botânico em Taiwan. Suas pesquisas foram transformadas entre acadêmicas e políticas. Os saberes e conquistas da produção não só serviram à política e à economia do domínio colonial, como também foram utilizados "localmente" na educação escolar, construindo múltiplos significados simbólicos. O levantamento de plantas em Taiwan durante o período de ocupação japonesa promoveu o desenvolvimento da história natural na Taiwan moderna.

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Palavras-chave: Japanese occupation period; Taiwan Botany 台湾植物学; Useful Plants Survey; Taiwan Natural History Society

1. Introduction

When it comes to botany and its knowledge production in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period, it seems that the concept of "natural history" cannot be avoided in the existing research. "Natural history"博物学 is a discipline that originated from western concepts. In the Ciyuan 辞源 published by the Commercial Press in 1915, the definition of "natural history" is: "Natural history has two broad and narrow meanings. It means the study of various things in the nature in a broad sense. It is the general term of zoology, botany, mineralogy and physiology in a narrow sense, and is generally used in a narrow sense." (Wu, 2016:90) "In the face of the emergence of these unknown things, Europe in the 18th century developed a set of new ways to understand the world. That is to classify, arrange and sort things and their original vein analysis only based on the characteristics of the naked eye, which is the so-called natural history. This is called natural history. Foucault once said that the so-called natural history is the operation of giving names to visible objects. As he said, natural history is the method used to present the systematic nature of the world, The first step is to classify assignments by naming them (Huang, 2011:11) Natural History is often translated as "natural history" 自然史 or "natural chronicles"自然志 in the academic community. From this perspective, its research objects and scope are very broad, and its methods focus on observation rather than experimentation.

Since the Great Discovery of Geography, the development of scientific knowledge has often accompanied the footsteps of colonialism. Scientific research and colonialism are intertwined, gradually forming a discourse system of scientific colonialism under imperialism. Fa ti Fan pointed out that science and imperial colonialism are symbiotic, scientific development and imperial imagination expansion constitute an interactive feedback loop in some cases, and natural history has a multifaceted interactive relationship with marine trade and imperialist expansion. For example, the extension and development of western natural history in inland China was carried out under the expansion of British imperialism. Therefore, it is possible to extensively investigate the flora and

fauna of various regions in China, and then piece together a relatively complete distribution image of flora and fauna. (Fa ti Fan, 2004)

Richard Drayton linked the history of British science and imperialism, showing how the colonial expansion from the Alexander era to the twentieth century led to the complexity of natural history knowledge within the empire, especially the botanical investigation and knowledge production in the colonies. The empire understood the colonial scientific knowledge and constructed scientific colonialism knowledge through the field research of colonial plants. (Richard Drayton, 2000) Robert Kohler pointed out that three of the four imperial surveys in the West in the 1870s were conducted under the auspices of naturalists. The materials of the Natural History Museum of North America showed that the surveys of natural knowledge such as animals and plants in the process of the development of the West of the United States were mostly conducted by countries and various subjects with complex competition, But it was precisely in the competition that the knowledge system of American natural history was constructed. (Robert Kohler, 2006)

The communication of people, things, and events during the colonial era was not simple, and behind the production of knowledge, there were multiple power relationships and inequalities. Although “nature” is a direct existence, the process under investigation and the scientific knowledge produced have multiple symbolic meanings. This article narrates and discusses the plant survey of Tashiro Yasusada in the early days of the Japanese occupation, the "plant exploration of Tokyo University", the island wide "Useful Plant Survey" and the plant collection of the "Taiwan Natural History Society". At the same time, the focus will also be on analyzing the production, "in place" application, and meaning construction of botany knowledge in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period. Using historical methods, we aim to present a relatively complete picture of the historical trajectory of the development of botany in Taiwan during this period.

2. Plant Investigation in Taiwan during the Early Japanese Occupation

In 1896, the Colony and Property Bureau of the Governor-General of Taiwan 台湾总督府殖产局 formulated the "Forest Survey Rules"森林调查规 to carry out field research on the distribution, types, area size and deforestation of Taiwan's forests. The purpose is to conduct statistics on Taiwan's forest and wild resources, laying the foundation and serving for subsequent

colonial rule, and botanical surveys are also included, deepening and comprehensively following the expansion of colonial rule.

There are three specific reasons why the Japanese attach so much importance to plant investigation: firstly, influenced by advanced Western colonial countries, Western countries have academic research as the basis for their colonial rule. The Tokyo Geoscience Association 东京地学会, established by the Japanese in 1878, is an important scientific research institution. Secondly, after the Sino-Japanese War 中日甲午战争 of 1894, the majority of Japanese soldiers occupying Taiwan died from malaria. Therefore, the Governor-General of Taiwan 台湾总督府 requested the assistance of Imperial University of Tokyo to come to Taiwan to engage in research on tropical plants and endemic diseases. Thirdly, due to Taiwan's unique geographical location and climate conditions, as well as abundant resources such as sucrose and camphor, the Governor-General of Taiwan was eager to seek industrial development and lay the foundation for colonial rule. (Huang & Gu & Cai, 1997:26-28) It can be seen that the comprehensive resource survey conducted by the Japanese is not only a political and economic need, but also a process of catching up with Western academia, breaking through their own difficulties, especially in botany academia, with the intention of establishing knowledge discourse hegemony and changing the situation dominated by Western academia.

During the Japanese occupation period, among the scholars conducting botanical investigations in Taiwan, Tashiro Yasusada was the earliest to come to Taiwan for investigation. During his youth, Tashiro Yasusada developed a strong interest in botany and participated in various wild plant collection activities of the "Kaiwu Society"开物社 in Japan. In 1875, at the age of 19, Tashiro Yasusada joined the Bureau of Natural History 博物局 to learn from the expert Tanaka Fangnan 田中芳男 who introduced modern zoobotany methods to Japan, including modern zoobotany knowledge, natural history methods, and the practicability of "breeding and industry". (Ueno Yoshisan, 1989: 193-194) The Japanese Natural History Bureau 日本博物局 was an important natural history research institution in Japan at that time, which systematically combined botanical gardens, museums, archives, etc.

In June 1895, Tashiro Yasusada entered the then Taipei City 台北城 and was later arranged by the Governor-General of Taiwan to work at the Ministry of Colony and Production 殖产部. On

September 8th, he was officially appointed as an employee of the Governor-General of Taiwan and went to Yilan 宜兰 to conduct a plant investigation, writing the "Yilan Production Report"宜兰殖产报文. In addition, there was an investigation of crops such as tea by Agricultural Affairs Department member Genji 原凞, as well as an investigation of coal and sand by Industry and Commerce Department member Zhuang Jiro Yokoyama 横山壮次郎. (TWLC, 1994: 548-566) The herbarium collected from the survey were sent by field mail to the botanist Bunzo Hayata 早田文藏 of Imperial University in Tokyo for identification. (Chen, 2008) Tashiro Yasusada conducted a plant survey of Hengchun 恒春 and other areas in southern Taiwan, laying the foundation for further larger plans. The survey area also began to shift from flat to mountainous areas, with more diverse plant types.

From 1902 to 1911, Tashiro Yasusada worked at the Hengchun Tropical Plant Breeding Farm 恒春热带植物殖育场, conducting seedling cultivation, transplantation, and cultivation of tropical plants. In 1911, the breeding ground was resetted as a forestry experimental branch, and Tashiro Yasusada returned to Taipei from Hengchun to promote tropical plants throughout Taiwan. There are two reasons why the Governor-General of Taiwan attaches great importance to the investigation and cultivation of tropical plants. Firstly, under the policy of "industrial Japan, agricultural Taiwan" 工业日本、农业台湾, Taiwan was imported into Japan as an agricultural output to meet its industrial production and living needs; The second is to lay the foundation for Japan's "South-forward Strategy"南进策略, in coordination with military development and the subsequent use of production and life in the colonies.

In 1897, Honda Jingliu 本多静六 from Imperial University of Tokyo, Japan, came to Taiwan to conduct investigations in forestry and agronomy, and was the earliest scholar to enter the high mountains of Taiwan for investigation. In 1896, Honda Jingliu came to Yushan 玉山 (later renamed as "New High Mountain"新高山 by the Governor-General of Taiwan) and nearby areas for plant collection, recording the forest plants along the way that changed with altitude, and ultimately published the article "Taiwan's Forest Belt". (Honda Jingliu, 1899) In the article, Honda Jingliu described the characteristics and distribution of plant forests in the mountainous areas of Taiwan through graphical methods. Firstly, using cone shapes, the growth of plants in the mountainous areas was illustrated from more to less. Secondly, it depicts the changes in the natural environment

with changes in altitude, and the plant species in mountainous areas have also shifted from diversity to singularity. Finally, compare the natural environment of the high mountains in Taiwan with the high mountains in Hokkaido 北海道. The survey conducted by Honda Jingliu detailed the changes in plant species and characteristics from flat to mountainous areas in Taiwan, and pointed out that Taiwan's ecological environment follows the classification principles of horizontal and vertical forest zones.

Overall, in the early days of Japanese occupation, the plant surveys conducted by Tashiro Yasusada, Honda Jingliu, and the "Tokyo University Plant Exploration" team in Taiwan opened up a new world of plant knowledge and accumulated a lot of knowledge and experience in botany during the surveys, making up for the shortcomings and shortcomings of the Japanese academic community in botany research in the past, and creating conditions for further understanding and development of modern Taiwanese botany. However, in the early stages, scholars' plant surveys were not yet comprehensive and systematic, mostly staying at the level of simple recording and preservation of plant species. The analysis of plants and land, water sources, altitude, and human factors still needs to be deepened. As an outsider, Japanese botanists lack a systematic understanding of the local natural environment, customs, and ethnic relationships, resulting in many related achievements being in a simple "descriptive" state and inevitably carrying a certain colonial flavor.

3. The "Useful Plant Survey"有用植物调查 from 1905 to 1908

During the Japanese occupation period, the term "Useful Plant"有用植物 was widely used by the Governor-General of Taiwan and Japanese botanist, so what kind of plant "Useful Plant" actually contains needs to be simply clarified. In 1891, in the book "Illustrations of Useful Plants"有用植物图说 written by Tanaka Fangnan and others, useful plants were divided into 25 categories, including over 1000 species of plants, such as root vegetables, fruits and melons, coloring plants, toxic plants, etc. (Tanaka Fangnan, 1891) In 1898, Owatari 大渡忠太郎 published the "Taiwan Useful Plants"台湾有用植物篇 in the Journal of Botany, listing seven types of "Useful Plants": building plants, organic plants, charcoal plants, dye plants, fiber plants, medicinal plants, horticultural plants, and fruit plants. (Owatari, 1898) In general, "Useful Plants" include not only

edible cash crop with economic value, but also various plants and some special plants needed for production and life in daily life, with a wide range and types, including food, medicine, industry, fiber, wood, ornamental and many other categories.

In 1905, the Governor-General of Taiwan launched an island wide "Useful Plant Survey" and designated the new high mountains as a key area for plant surveys. (Wu, 1997) explored the reasons for this survey. On the one hand, the natural environment in the new high mountain area has a clear hierarchy and a wide variety of plant species. In the early stage, Honda Jingliu had conducted relevant surveys and proposed the classification principle of vertical forest zones. On the other hand, anthropologist Torii Ryuzo also conducted an investigation into this area in 1900. The record also points out the vertical distribution of plants: "The most interesting thing is that the new mountain not only has different plant and fauna vertical distribution, but also from an anthropological point of view, it is found that anthropological relics and relics in the past years are vertically distributed in the new mountain in strips, and the same is true of modern human activities. During this mountain survey, I deeply felt the close relationship between the plant belt and the Tibetan ethnic groups in Taiwan" (Torii Ryuzo, 1996: 319) Based on the above concepts and methods, the Governor-General of Taiwan has focused on conducting plant surveys on the new high mountains in terms of funding considerations, preliminary investigations, and timeliness.

From October to November 1905, the "Useful Plant Survey" was launched on the new high mountain. The investigation team consists of 40 to 50 members, including Takiya Kawakami 川上泷弥, Yoshisuke Fukuliu 福留喜之助, Sadaichi Nagasawa 永泽定一, Genji Nakahara 中原源治, Saduke Teramoto 寺本贞吉 (meteorological), Kingo Shinei 西内金吾 (prosecutor), and the Daino Saitaro 大户次外郎 Police Department. The team departed from Taipei 台北 to Chiayi 嘉义 on October 23, 1905, and officially departed from Chiayi on October 30. The route traveled from Chiayi up the mountain, Nantou 南投 down the mountain, passing through Gongtian 公田, Yuanbang She 远邦社, and other places, to reach the top of Xingaoshan Mountain, then from Chenyoulan Creek 陈有兰溪 to Dongpu Creek 东埔溪 and other places, and finally arrived at Lin Yipu 林圯埔 in Nantou. This trip takes a total of 25 days and will return to Taipei on November 17th.

After organizing the data collected at the beginning of the new high mountain, the final results include 236 species in 61 families of flowering plants, 15 species in 4 families of cryptogamous plants, a total of 251 species in 65 families. Among them, there are 132 species of alpine plants with an altitude of over 7900 feet , and there are 19 families and 45 species of alpine plants with an altitude of 10000 feet to 13000 feet. (Sadaichi Nagasawa, 1905)

The island wide "useful plant survey" was officially ended in 1908, and the Flora Montana Formosae 台湾高地植物志 was finally compiled by the collection and classification of Bunzo Hayata based on the plant survey data of two new mountains, and was published in 1908. The book includes 392 species of plants from mountainous areas in Taiwan, ranging from 3000 feet to 13000 feet above sea level, belonging to a total of 79 families, 266 genera, and approximately 90 new species have been discovered.(Bunzo Hayata, 1908) The "Useful Plant Survey" not only collects plants from high mountain areas, but also surveys other areas with convenient transportation. Finally, based on the island wide "useful plant survey" data from high mountain and flat areas, a total of 145 families, 854 genera, and 1797 species were collected, involving various aspects such as food, medicine, and industry.

The "Useful Plant Survey" conducted throughout Taiwan from 1905 to 1908 has made further improvements and progress compared to previous plant surveys. Firstly, in terms of survey scale, the scale of the "useful plant survey" has expanded, with an increase in the number of accompanying investigators and a diversified and professional allocation of investigators. Secondly, in terms of investigating the area, the "Useful Plant Investigation" team has shifted from flat to mountainous areas, especially focusing on the new high mountain areas for plant investigation, further expanding the area.

Once again, from the perspective of survey forms and methods, in the late 19th century, plant surveys mostly remained at the level of universal recording and "description" of plants, with a limited number of specimens collected. The island wide "survey of useful plants" not only collects plants on a large scale, but also explores and analyzes the distribution of plants and the physical geography environment, local people, ethnic relations, etc. The technology and methods are more systematic and scientific. Finally, in the late 19th century, plant surveys were both individual and academic in nature, with little assistance from official political forces and mostly in a cooperative state. The "Useful Plant Survey" conducted throughout the island in 1905 received support from the

Governor General of Taiwan and the Chief Civil Affairs Officer, with the cooperation of official forces from various regions. This survey was highly political in nature. Overall, the 1905 Island wide "Useful Plant Survey" was more comprehensive and systematic, scientific, professional, and practical based on the previous plant survey.

4. "Taiwan Natural History Society"台湾博物学会 and plant collection activities

At the beginning of the 20th century, Japan continued to expand its overseas waters, and various scholars came to Taiwan to investigate frequently, especially botanists, who were increasing. In addition, the establishment of the Museum of the Taiwan Bureau of Natural History 台湾殖产局博物馆 in 1908 promoted the rise of the Taiwan Natural History Society. On December 10, 1910, the Museum of the Bureau of Natural History launched a preparatory meeting for the establishment of the Natural History Society, which was attended by 17 people. It decided to name it "Taiwan Natural History Society", and elected Takiya Kawakami 川上泷弥 as the president, and Takiya Kawakami 川上泷弥, Mishi Shimada 岛田弥市, Shunyi Sasaki 佐佐木舜一 and Akira Okamoto 冈本要八郎 as the preparatory members. And it was proposed to hold the first membership meeting on January 14, 1911 at the Japanese Language School of the Governor-General of Taiwan.

After the first general meeting, the Taiwan Natural History Society published Article 16 of the "Rules", in which "Article 2 The purpose of the Society is to engage in research, investigation and other related matters related to Taiwan, including zoology, botany, mineralogy, anthropology, geosciences, and meteorology." (TWMS, 1911:54) This detailed rule defines the main work direction of the Natural History Society, but in fact, in the actual field research and scientific research, There are significant differences in the proportion of investigations and their results across various disciplines, with botany as the primary focus. The inclusion of anthropology is due to the large number of ethnic minorities in Taiwan, as well as the historical experience of early anthropologists such as Torii Ryuzo 鸟居龙藏 and Ino Kanori 伊能嘉矩 in investigating ethnic groups and flora and fauna in Taiwan.

During the period of the "Rules", there were multiple revisions, with the most significant one being the change in 1943 to "The purpose of this association is to engage in research, investigations,

and other related matters related to Taiwan and the Southern Ocean, including biology and geography." The revision of this provision indicates that the Governor-General of Taiwan, in cooperation with Japan's military policy of advancing southward, increased the expansion of the southward region. In addition, it also indicates that after decades of investigation of Taiwan's local flora and fauna, the survey content may be relatively complete.

The collection and travel activity is a characteristic activity of the Taiwan Natural History Society. In spring and autumn, ordinary people and primary and secondary students will be recruited to participate in the activity to improve natural science education. (Li, 2006:64) Every month, members of the association also conduct field collection work. From its establishment in 1910 to the reorganization in 1944, there were dozens of collection activities. Its collection scope and area are concentrated in the area from Keelung 基隆 to Nantou 南投, greatly reducing the area of "useful plant investigation"; From the perspective of collection content, the number of plants collected is the highest, followed by animals or other categories of collection; From the time of collection, they were all short-term collections, or short-term trips for collection, and the general public and students also participated in them, which indicates that the natural history survey during this period has tended to be popular and educational. Compared with "useful plant survey", various plant surveys conducted by the Taiwan Natural History Society have changed from political to academic, even educational.

From its inception in 1911 to its closure in 1945, the Journal of the Taiwan Natural History Society published 34 volumes, No. 252, and more than 2000 articles. According to the types of articles published, botanical 植物学 research accounted for more than 40%, zoology 动物学 research accounted for more than 30%, mineralogy 矿物学 geoscience 地学 accounted for about 10%, anthropology 人类学, meteorology 气象学, etc. accounted for about 10%. (Li, 2006:63) It can be seen that botanical research is still the focus of Taiwan's academic research in the middle and later period of the Japanese occupation, and was particularly active in the early days of the establishment of the Natural History Society. Taiwan is located in a superior natural environment with a wide variety of plant species and abundant products, providing material support for the production and life of both domestic and local people in Japan. At the same time, it is also a highly diverse field research site, which has a particular emphasis on research.

5. Knowledge production and significance construction of Taiwanese botany during the Japanese occupation period

During the Japanese occupation period, the plant survey of Tashiro Yasusada, the forest survey of Honda Jingliu, and the Taiwan plant survey carried out by the "Tokyo University Plant Expedition" team, the island wide "Useful Plant Survey" and the "Taiwan Natural History Society" and other individual and group organizations have all promoted the production and disciplinary development of modern Taiwan botanical knowledge, and also made more people realize the diversity of Taiwan plants.

Firstly, as the earliest scholar to conduct botanical investigations in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period, Tashiro Yasusada collected, identified, and named many unknown plants, enriching the knowledge of Taiwanese botany. During the process of plant investigation, attention was also paid to the local natural environment and ecological development, and many survey results were written in conjunction with the policy of "breeding and promoting industry"殖产兴业. Another contribution of Tashiro Yasusada was to propose to the Taiwan Governor General's Office the "Proposal for the Establishment of a Tropical Plant Trial Plantation Site" and pass it. Eventually, the Hengchun Tropical Plant Breeding Site was established in southern Taiwan to carry out work related to the cultivation, transplantation, and cultivation of tropical plants, promoting the production and application of tropical plant knowledge. Tashiro Yasusada pays more attention to the role and contribution of plants to human economy, life, and aesthetics.

Secondly, in the "Useful Plant Survey" conducted throughout Taiwan from 1905 to 1908, a total of 392 species belonging to 266 genera and 79 families of plants were discovered in two new alpine surveys, of which about 90 new species were discovered. Bunzo Hayata collated and published Flora Montana Formosae 台湾高地植物志 in English. A comprehensive plant survey on flat land revealed a total of 1797 plant species belonging to 854 genera and 145 families during the 4-year "Useful Plant Survey". In 1910, the A List of Plant of Formosa 台湾植物目录 compiled by Takiya Kawakami was officially published. The following year, the first volume of the "Taiwan Plant Atlas"台湾植物图谱 compiled by Bunzo Hayata was published. By 1921, a total of ten volumes of the "Taiwan Plant Atlas" were published, including various plant information collected from 1905 to 1921, totaling 2658 species in 170 families and 1197 numbers. (Wu, 2006:326)

Thirdly, from 1910 to 1945, the Taiwan Natural History Society carried out lectures, symposiums and nature collection travel activities on natural history, which still focused on lectures and plant surveys on botany. The total amount of botanical research is also the largest among the articles published in the Journal of the Taiwan Natural History Society 台湾博物学会会报. At the same time, the Taiwan Natural History Society also opened a collection trip in spring and autumn to recruit ordinary people and students to participate in the field collection of animals and plants. This practical activity has improved people's understanding of Taiwan's plants and increased their botanical knowledge. In 1928, the "Taipei Imperial University"台北帝国大学 was established, and plant investigations were expanded from the Bureau of Agriculture and Forestry to the "Taipei Imperial University". Taiwan's plant institutions were transferred from government departments to academic institutions, and their botanical research was further expanded.

The production of Taiwanese botany knowledge by various organizations and departments mentioned above is not only used for scientific research and political and economic activities of colonial rulers. On the other hand, these botanical knowledge are also applied "locally", mainly through school education to enrich the botanical knowledge of Japanese and Taiwanese students, and cultivate a new generation of botanical talents.

The symbolic significance of using "things" as "names" lies in three aspects. Firstly, from the perspective of the most basic naming culture, Japanese botanists, through investigation and identification of various plants in Taiwan, ultimately endow them with scientific or common names, achieving the recognition, classification, and scientific research of diverse plants. The second is to attempt to break through the dilemma of Japan's previous domestic botany research being constrained by the West, break the dominant position of Western botany, and gain the knowledge discourse hegemony of Japanese botany in the world through the name and experience of plant surveys in Taiwan. The third is to summarize the distribution and types of resources in Taiwan through a survey of botany, in order to implement the policy of "industrial Japan, agricultural Taiwan", and support the development of Japanese capital in Taiwan according to the strategy of "capital advancing with the national flag", providing material support for the subsequent "southward strategy". In short, it is "taken from Taiwan and used in Japan".

6. Conclusion

In the early stages of history, science often accompanied the footsteps of colonialism, and the development of science entered a symbiotic relationship with colonialism, thus constructing a discourse system of scientific colonialism, aiming to obtain the rationality and legitimacy of colonialism. During the period when Taiwan was occupied by Japanese colonial rulers from 1895 to 1945, due to its superior natural environment and abundant resources, the Governor-General of Taiwan conducted plant surveys 植物调查, forest and wilderness surveys 林野调查, land surveys 土地调查, etc. Through resource exploration, scientific research and resource acquisition were carried out, which was both a manifestation of power and the production of knowledge.

The various plant surveys conducted by the Governor-General of Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period were of great significance for the understanding and education of Taiwanese plants, and their fruitful achievements also promoted the mass production of modern Taiwanese botany knowledge. However, in the context of colonialism, the scientific research of Taiwan's botany during the Japanese occupation inevitably carried colonial symbols, such as naming plants in Japanese, and sometimes jointly naming them after botanist or political figures. Not only do they have scientific names 学名, but they are also given colloquial names 俗名, or named after the place of discovery. From a side view, this move carries a colonial and scientific non rigor. In general, the fieldwork, knowledge production and dissemination of botany in Taiwan during the Japanese occupation period have certain significance for the development of natural history in Taiwan.

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