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ANNOUNCEMENT

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The 2003 Population Ecology Young Scientist Award

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The Population Ecology Young Scientist Award recognizes outstanding scientific contributions to the study of population ecology by investigators at relatively early stages of their research careers. Awarded biennially by the Society of Population Ecology at its general meeting, the award consists of an honorarium and a certificate. The award is open to young scientists (up to about 40 years of age) of all nationalities who have published at least one paper in *Population Ecology* or its predecessor *Researches on Population Ecology*.

The winner of the 2003 Population Ecology Young Scientist Award is Dr. Masahiro Nakaoka of the Faculty of Science at Chiba University. He has done distinguished work in population and community ecology in marine systems. His approach is highly comprehensive, blending field observations, field manipulations, and mathematical analyses. Using stochastic matrix models, he extensively analyzed the reproduction and growth of size-structured populations of a marine bivalve. He also demonstrated the importance of the recruitment rate, which depends on environmental fluctuations, in the population persistence of this species. Recently, his research expanded to include the community ecology of epifauna in seagrass beds, and through this he developed an interest in the importance of nonlethal, indirect effects on interaction linkages. This approach has the potential to initiate further development of population-based approaches to understanding community organization. The Society of Population Ecology is pleased to honor Dr.Nakaoka as the recipient of the 2003 Young Scientist Award in recognition of these contributions.

Takayuki Ohgushi
Chair of Young Scientist Award Committee

Selected papers by Masahiro Nakaoka

Nakaoka M (1993) Yearly variation in recruitment and its effect on population dynamics in *Yoldia notabilis* (Mollusca: Bivalvia), analyzed using projection matrix model. Researches on Population Ecology 35:199–213

Nakaoka M (1996) Dynamics of age- and size-structured populations in fluctuating environments: applications of stochastic matrix models to natural populations. Researches on Population Ecology 38:141–152

Nakaoka M (1997) Demography of the marine bivalve *Yoldia notabilis* in fluctuating environments: an analysis using a stochastic matrix model. Oikos 79:59–68

Nakaoka M (1998) Optimal resource allocation of the marine bivalve *Yoldia notabilis*: the effects of size-limited reproductive capacity and size-dependent mortality. Evolutionary Ecology 12:347–361

Nakaoka M (2000) Nonlethal effects of predators on prey populations: predator-mediated change in bivalve growth. Ecology 81:1031–1045

Nakaoka M (2002) Predation on seeds of seagrasses *Zostera marina* and *Zosteracaulescens* by a tanaid crustacean *Zeuxo* sp. Aquatic Botany 72:99–106

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