



## Professor Wu Pengcheng, How I Got to Know Him

YONGYING LIU

*Department of Biology, Jiaozuo Normal College, Jiaozuo, Henan 454001, China*

[jzbotany@163.com](mailto:jzbotany@163.com)

In the early winter of 2011, as a doctoral student, I was instructed by Professor Zhao Jiancheng to examine specimens of the Bryaceae family and related taxa at the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences (PE). There, I first met the long-admired Professor Wu Pengcheng. I was deeply excited, having previously known his name only through literature like *Moss Flora of China* and Professor Zhao's frequent mentions—now, I finally encountered him in person. However, unlike the imposing scientist I had imagined, he appeared unassuming as a neighbor. At over 70 years old, he still commuted daily by public transit and shared a modest office with multiple colleagues. Dr. Yu Ningning humorously remarked that she controlled the “chokepoint” to his desk: only when she pushed her chair under the desk to clear the passage could Professor Wu access his seat.

What moved me most was Professor Wu's approachability. After my specimen review, I requested access to Bryaceae literature. Without hesitation, he paused his own work and personally escorted me to another building housing archival materials. Even after 15 years, the memory remains vivid: Professor Wu strode ahead with vigorous steps while I trotted behind. Upon arrival, he meticulously explained the categorization of literature, noting which items could be photocopied and which were fragile, centuries-old thread-bound volumes permissible only for photography. With the generous assistance of Professor Wu, Professor Jia Yu, Dr. Yu Ningning, and Dr. Wang Qinghua, I successfully reviewed extensive specimens and literature in several days, laying the foundation for my subsequent Bryaceae research. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them and wish Professor Wu enduring health.