

令和6年度 奈良県立大学 地域創造学部 一般選抜（前期日程）小論文問題（その1）

第1問 次の英文を読み、以下の問1に答えなさい。

After long pondering¹⁾ why two male butterflies would just keep chasing each other in circles but not attack each other, Takeuchi concluded that the butterfly that happened to be on the scene first couldn't tell the sex of the newcomer²⁾, but engaged blindly³⁾ in a mating⁴⁾ ritual⁵⁾ anyway. His theory was published in an international academic⁶⁾ journal and won an award from the Japan Ethological Society⁷⁾.

Until then, the accepted theory in the Japanese entomological⁸⁾ community was that the aim of the male butterfly that initiated⁹⁾ this behavior was to drive the other butterfly, which was essentially intruding¹⁰⁾, out of his territory. And the prevalent¹¹⁾ understanding overseas was that this behavior represented a strategy to wait out the male rival until it became exhausted.

Takeuchi, however, could not quite agree. "Butterflies have no weapons, so how can we be sure they are actually fighting?" he asked himself. After repeated observations and experiments, he published his theory that male butterflies invariably¹²⁾ initiate this mating ritual, irrespective of¹³⁾ the sex of the newcomer. But the international academic community did not immediately accept this new premise. One researcher pointed out, "Butterflies could not possibly be incapable of discerning¹⁴⁾ the sex of other butterflies."

Still, after reading Takeuchi's publication and interviewing him to help me better understand his theory, I found myself being more convinced by his explanation that the butterflies are engaged in a mating ritual rather than a territorial¹⁵⁾ battle.

I do not mean to equate¹⁶⁾ Takeuchi's theory with the Copernican theory or Darwin's theory of evolution, but it is a fact that any groundbreaking¹⁷⁾ discovery tends to be met with stiff resistance. As a contemporary of Takeuchi, I am excited to imagine the process by which the world will come to accept his theory.

(VOX POPULI: Why do male butterflies dance with each other?, The Asahi Shimbun Asia & Japan Watch, April 19, 2022 一部省略 朝日新聞社に無断で転載することを禁じる 承諾番号 24-1219/24-1553)

1) ponder : ~かどうかあれこれ考える, 2) newcomer : 新たに登場したもの, 3) blindly : 手探りで, 4) mating : 交尾, 5) ritual : 儀式, お決まりのこと 6) academic : 学問の, 7) the Japan Ethological Society : 日本動物行動学会, 8) entomological : 昆虫学の, 9) initiate : ~を始める, ~に着手する, 10) intrude : 立ち入る, 侵入する, 11) prevalent : 流布している, 広く認められる, 12) invariably : 変わることなく, 例外なくきまって, 13) irrespective of : ~に関係なく, 14) discern : ~を識別する, 判別する, 15) territorial : 縄張りを守る, 16) equate : ~を同等とみなす, 同一視する, 17) groundbreaking : 独創的な, 革新的な

問1 竹内氏の見解の内容を、国内外の学会で広く受け入れられていた見解との違いがわかるように述べなさい。