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Professor Qi-Bin Lin and palaeoentomology of China

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Professor Qi-Bin Lin (Figs 1, 2) was born on February 15th, 1935 (same birthday as the first author, Di-Ying Huang) in Putian, Fujian Province, southeastern China. He graduated from the Department of Biology of Nanjing University in 1959 and has been working at the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (NIGPAS) since then. In his early career, he did research on Permian brachiopods with Prof. Yu Wang. Although there were sporadic studies on insect fossils in China before China's Liberation, palaeoentomology was still a blank in China at that time and there was a lack of professional researchers. That was the reason why the institute's leader assigned him to research on insect

fossils. Lin went to the Beijing Institute of Entomology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (later merged into the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences) in 1961 to study entomology for one year. He studied under the supervision of the famous entomologist, Prof. Juan-Jie Tan, who was not only an excellent coleopterist, but also one of the pioneers in palaeoentomology of China.

In 1962, Lin returned to the Nanjing Institute and began research on Chinese insect fossils. Since 1963, he has carried out field trips with colleagues from NIGPAS, and has traveled all over China. First, he followed the scientific research team of NIGPAS in western Liaoning and began to study insect fossils from the Early Cretaceous Jehol biota. Later, he wrote numerous works about this area (e.g., Lin, 1994; Lin & Huang, 2001; Lin *et al.*, 2002, 2007, 2010b; Huang & Lin, 2007). In 1965, he and another pioneer researcher of palaeoentomology in China, Prof. You-Chong Hong, published the earliest research papers on fossil insects after the Liberation. Among them, he published two Jurassic insects from Inner Mongolia (Lin, 1965). In 1976, Prof. Lin reported numerous insect fossils from the Middle Jurassic Haifanggou Formation in western Liaoning, and the earliest research on insect fossils from the Yanliao biota (Lin, 1976a). Later, in 1983, Prof. Hong named the Yanliao Entomofauna based on the insect assemblage of the Haifanggou Formation (Hong, 1983), and became a treasure house of insect fossil research in China. And Prof. Lin later participated in the research of many insect forms from the Daohugou beds of the Yanliao biota (e.g., Huang *et al.*, 2006; Nel *et al.*, 2007, 2008; Lin & Huang, 2008; Lin *et al.*, 2008). Lin and his colleagues have conducted extensive investigations on the continental stratigraphy in China. Insect fossils have been found in many localities, and his research covers the whole of China. In particular, he has made critical contributions to the research of insect fossils in South China. The research locations include those from Yunnan, Guizhou, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Anhui, Hunan, Hubei, Guangxi, Guangdong, Sichuan, Fujian and other provinces (e.g., Lin, 1976b, 1978, 1985, 1986),

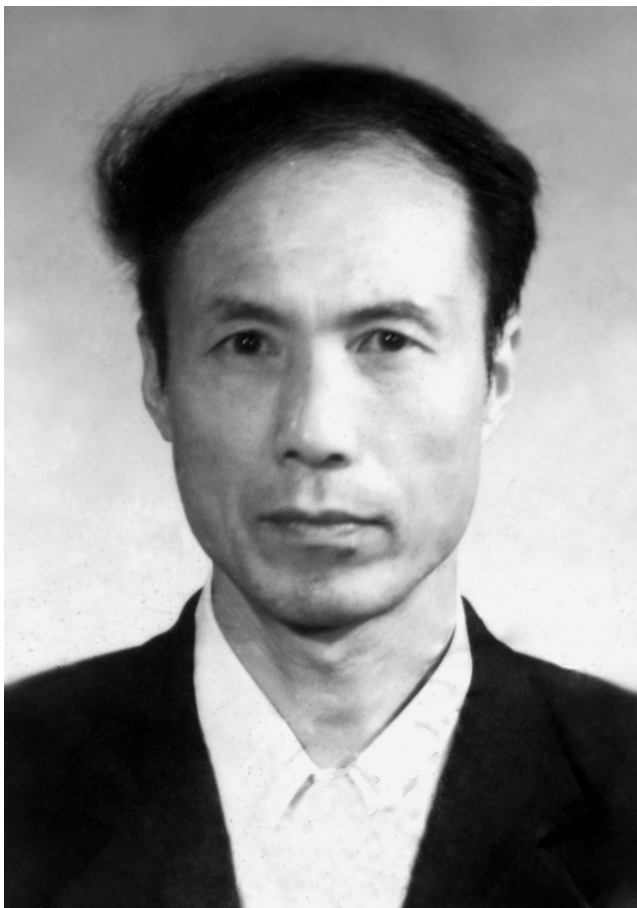


FIGURE 1. Professor Qi-Bin Lin in the 1980s.



FIGURE 2. Professor Qi-Bin Lin. **A**, Prof. Lin in the office of Hai-Chun Zhang (2018). **B**, Prof. Lin in office of Di-Ying Huang (2015). **C**, Prof. Lin and Chen-Yang Cai at the Western Hills of Kunming, Yunnan. **D**, Prof. Lin at the Western Hills of Kunming. **E**, Prof. Lin at the boundary station of China and Laos at Mohan for collecting Paleogene insects at Shangyong (2010). **F**, Prof. Lin at the Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (2010).

and also studied the Paleogene insect fossils from Hong Kong (Lin & Li, 1997; Lin, 1998). In addition, he also studied insect fossils from Tibet and Xinjiang (Lin, 1981, 1992; Lin & Huang, 2006a). These studies were mainly focused on Mesozoic insects, comprehensively covering the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous strata in China, and he also made important contributions to the study of Chinese Palaeozoic and Cenozoic insects. For instance, insects from the middle Permian Yinping Formation in Chaohu, Anhui Province and the Paleogene at Shangyong, Mengla County, Yunnan Province are still being studied extensively (e.g., Huang *et al.*, 2007; Lin *et al.*, 2010a, c, d). His research involves various insect groups, and has contributed to our understanding of many insect orders, such as Odonata, Ephemeroptera, Orthoptera, and Blattodea (e.g., Lin, 1978; Lin & Su, 1994; Lin *et al.*, 2004; Lin & Huang, 2006b).

Prof. Lin's works are quite abundant. He has authored more than 50 papers on the first author. After retiring in 1997, he still persisted in research and carried out a lot of field investigations and paper publications. He is modest, kind, and uncontested, and pays special attention to the inheritance of research work, which enables some fossil sites that have been briefly studied in the last century to be thoroughly researched and reproduced. Although he only supervised two graduate students, namely Profs. Jun-Feng Zhang and Hai-Chun Zhang, they both became outstanding researchers in the palaeontology field of China. Prof. Lin has laid an important foundation for Chinese palaeoentomology to go global. Finally, we wish Prof. Qi-Bin Lin a long and healthy life and a smooth work.

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