

Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgements	xi
1. Legends of Unusual Phenomena Before Earthquakes	
— Wisdom or Superstition?	1
1.1 Introduction	2
1.2 Precursor phenomena in the sky, the atmosphere and on land	3
1.2.1 Earthquake light (EQL)	
1.2.2 Earthquake clouds (EQCs) and fogs (EQFs)	
1.2.3 Sky, sun, moon, stars and rainbows	
1.2.4 Weather, water and sounds	
1.3 Unusual behavior of animals and plants	9
1.3.1 Unusual animal behavior: myths or reality?	
Insert Living God: the story of a tsunami	
1.3.2 Legends and proverbs about animals before earthquakes	
1.3.3 Unusually active catfish and the absence of eels	
1.3.4 Color woodblock-prints of catfish: Namazu-e	
1.3.5 Do human beings feel anything before earthquakes?	
1.3.6 Early flowering, re-flowering and sensitive plants (Mimosa)	
1.4 Unusual behavior of inanimate objects	15
1.4.1 Mysterious candle flame	
1.4.2 Nails dropping from a magnet and compass: A magnetic anomaly?	
1.4.3 Electric home appliances	
1.4.4 Modern legends: Telecommunication lines and apparatus	
1.5 Earthquake precursors and the Oriental worldview	16
1.5.1 Different ways of thinking in East and West	
1.5.2 Examining the Oriental approach	
1.6 Summary	19
2. Precursors Before Recent Earthquakes	
— Kobe, Izmit, Taiwan and India	20
2.1 Introduction	21
2.2 What happened before the Kobe Earthquake?	22
2.2.1 Over 2000 statements on earthquake precursors	
2.2.2 Phenomena in the sky and atmosphere	
2.2.3 Unusual animal and plant behavior	
2.2.4 Unusual behavior of electric appliances—the “Alice in Wonderland” Syndrome?	

2.3 Unusual phenomena before the Izmit Earthquake (M7.4) in Turkey ..28	
2.3.1 The Izmit Earthquake in 1999 and field survey	
2.3.2 Unusual atmosphere and sky	
2.3.3 Unusual animal behavior	
2.3.4 Unusual phenomena on land and sea	
2.3.5 Malfunctioning electrical appliances	
2.3.6 “The Moses Phenomenon”	
2.4 Precursors of the Taiwan-921 Earthquake (M7.7) 35	
2.4.1 The Taiwan-921 earthquake and field survey	
2.4.2 Unusual atmosphere, water and land	
2.4.3 Unusual behavior of animals, plants and electric appliances	
2.5 The West Indian (Gujarat) Earthquake (M7.7) in 2001 37	
2.5.1 Field survey and newspaper reports: EQL and sounds	
2.5.2 Unusual behavior of animals and plants	
2.6 International mail and overall comments 39	
2.6.1 Pigeons, a parrot and cats in the USA: Loma Prieta and Northridge	
2.6.2 Symptoms of a British former POW	
2.6.3 Overall comments on reports of recent earthquakes: No cultural differences	
2.7 Numerical Data: fish capture records 41	
2.7.1 Old work on fishery records by Terada	
2.7.2 Sea bream catches before the Kobe Earthquake	
2.7.3 Fishery records at the Istanbul market	
2.7.4 Comments on fish catch records	
2.8 Space and time distribution of precursors 44	
2.8.1 Are unusual phenomena just wishful thinking?	
2.8.2 Spatial distribution of precursor phenomena	
2.8.3 A speculative mechanism for temporal shift of unusual behavior from small to large animals	
2.8.4 Times of precursor phenomena before earthquakes	
2.9 Summary 48	
3. Earth Sciences and Electromagnetism 51	
3.1 Introduction 52	
3.2 Solid Earth Sciences and earthquakes 52	
3.2.1 Structure of the Earth and the cause of earthquakes	
3.2.2 Seismic P- and S-waves: Early warning systems and animal sensitivity	
3.2.3 Foreshocks, main shock and aftershocks	
3.2.4 The dilatancy-fluid diffusion model: Do microfractures precede earthquakes?	
3.2.5 Geophysical and geochemical changes before earthquakes	
3.2.6 Tidal withdrawal, “sea-splitting” and tsunamis	
3.3 Elementary electromagnetism 59	
3.3.1 Physical quantities and units	
3.3.2 Electromagnetic (EM) waves	

3.3.3	Electromagnetic pulses and seismo EM signals (SEMS)	
3.3.4	Skin depth of EM waves	
3.3.5	Condenser and dielectric materials	
3.3.6	Propagation of EM waves in the earth's crust and atmospheric waveguides	
3.3.7	Piezoelectric polarization and piezo-compensating charges	
3.3.8	Electrokinetics and other mechanisms of stress-electricity conversion	
3.3.9	Frictional electricity: Van de Graaff electrostatic generator	
3.3.10	Absorption ratio for a dielectric sphere	
3.3.11	Electric field effects on animals	
3.4	Summary	76
4.	Unusual Animal Behavior: I What do they Detect?	
—	Electric Field Effects	77
4.1	Introduction	78
4.2	What do animals detect?—what are their sensors?	78
4.2.1	Sounds (acoustic waves) and vibration (foreshocks)	
4.2.2	Odor or outgassing before earthquakes	
4.2.3	Infrared or far infrared light	
4.2.4	Magnetic fields	
4.2.5	Electric fields	
4.2.6	Charged aerosols (The Serotonin Syndrome)	
4.2.7	EM waves (< 10 kHz): electric pulse (> 0.1 ms)	
4.3	Electric field experiments on aquatic animals	86
4.3.1	Experimental conditions	
4.3.2	Catfish and eels: Which is more sensitive?	
4.3.3	Freshwater aquatic animals: shrimps, crabs and alignment in Japanese minnows, guppies, and loaches	
4.3.4	Saltwater fish: lobster, squid, octopus, flounder and sea bream	
4.3.5	Reptiles: Turtles and frogs	
4.4	Electric field experiments on land animals	90
4.4.1	Experimental conditions	
4.4.2	Mammals	
4.4.3	Birds: Puffed-up feathers, grooming, shrieking	
4.4.4	Sensitive reptiles	
4.4.5	Insects and worms	
4.4.6	Body current estimation	
4.5	Experiments at Kobe-Oji Zoo	102
4.5.1	Electric field effects on animals in the Kobe-Oji Zoo	
4.5.2	Estimated electric field intensity before the Kobe earthquake	
4.6	Izu-Atagawa Tropical & Alligator Garden	106
4.6.1	Crocodiles: Eyes as electric sensors	
4.6.2	Turtles (eyes) and snakes (tongue)	
4.7	Animal experiments in Turkey and Taiwan	107
4.7.1	Parrots at the Darica-Kocaeli Bosphorus Zoo	
4.7.2	Earthworms at an elementary school in Kaoshung, Taiwan	

4.8	Preseismic electric field intensity at epicenters	108
4.8.1	Electric pulse effects on aquatic animals: Galvani's frog muscle	
4.8.2	Land animals may still respond to electric pulses	
4.8.3	Are intense EM pulses observable before earthquakes?	
4.9	Summary	111
5.	Unusual Animal Behavior: II	
—	Rock Compression and Increased Animal Activity	114
5.1	Introduction	115
5.2	Rock compression experiment	115
5.2.1	Analysis of blood plasma and brain hypothalamus fluid in rats	
5.2.2	How did the animals behave?	
5.3	Disturbed mice behavior before the Kobe Earthquake	123
5.4	An EM exposure experiment	126
5.5	Effects of EM pulses on chickens	126
5.6	Possible physiological pathways for EM waves	127
5.6.1	Electrosensory organs in aquatic animals	
5.6.2	Are EM pulses detected through the heart?	
5.6.3	Skeletal muscle with anisotropic resistivity	
5.7	Is behavioral response consistent with detection of EM waves?	130
5.8	Waking before earthquakes: a human response to EM waves?	132
5.9	Possible action of melatonin (the sleep hormone)?	135
5.10	Connection between seismo-electromagnetic signals (SEMS) and animal behavior?	136
5.11	Summary	136
6.	Unusual Plant Responses Before Earthquakes	138
6.1	Introduction	139
6.2	Possible causes of plant anomalies before earthquakes	139
6.2.1	Changes in the plant's environment	
6.2.2	Changes in plant physiology: direct effects	
6.3	Investigation of electric field effects on plants and soils	141
6.3.1	Drying of soil through intense ground charges	
6.3.2	Visible and near-infrared images from a satellite	
6.3.3	Unusual mimosa movements	
6.3.4	Other plant movement: "dancing" plants	
6.4	Silk trees in earthquake prediction	145
6.5	Effect of EM waves on the growth of rice plants	147
6.5.1	Unusually short rice plants before earthquakes	
6.5.2	"Bar code" in rice leaves	
6.5.3	Discharges from the tip: Burning of plants at fault zone	
6.6	Early flowering and re-blooming	153
6.6.1	Early flowering	
6.6.2	A new horticultural technology?	
6.7	Summary	154

7. Atmospheric Precursors

— Earthquake Light, Clouds, Sun, Moon, Stars and Rainbows	155
7.1 Introduction	156
7.2 Earthquake light (EQL)	156
7.2.1 EQL and the Kobe, Izmit and Shizuoka earthquakes	
7.3 Sources and causes of EQL	159
7.3.1 Rock materials	
7.3.2 Aerosol, liquid and gaseous processes for EQL	
7.3.3 Atmospheric light and mechanisms for EQL	
7.4 Theory of a dark discharge model	164
7.4.1 An electromagnetic (EM) model of a fault	
7.4.2 A dark discharge model for EQL	
7.4.3 Lessons from ball lightning	
7.5 Earthquake Fogs and Clouds (EQFs and EQCs)	170
7.5.1 What are EQFs and EQCs?	
7.5.2 Shapes of EQCs	
7.5.3 Formation mechanisms of EQFs and EQCs	
7.5.4 Experiments to generate EQFs and EQCs by electric fields	
7.5.5 Can electric fields produce tornado clouds?	
Insert Dissipating tornadoes by induced lightning?	
7.6 Unusual phenomena in the sky	179
7.6.1 Sun, moon and stars	
7.6.2 When and where before the Kobe earthquake?	
7.6.3 Prediction of the longitude of earthquakes from red aurora?	
7.7 Summary	182

8. Precursor Phenomena

— On Land, Sea and Elsewhere	184
8.1 Introduction	185
8.2 Air bubble movement—from land-tilting or electric charge?	185
8.2.1 Movements of air bubble in a level before an earthquake	
8.2.2 Could it have been an EM phenomenon instead?	
Insert Pendulum swing anomalies—an electric field effect?	
8.3 Sounds from the ground: Can one hear EM waves?	188
8.3.1 Records of strange sounds and sounds from the ground	
8.3.2 Sound and converse-piezoelectricity	
8.3.3 Can animals directly hear EM pulses as sounds?	
8.3.4 Explosive sounds before earthquakes: local rock fracture	
8.4 Phenomena in the aquasphere	191
8.4.1 Turbid water in wells and bottles	
8.4.2 A split sea in the Gulf of Izmit: “The Moses Phenomenon”	
8.4.3 Hypothesis: Water movement into faults and areas of subsidence	
8.4.4 Tidal withdrawal	
8.5 Bent candle flame, smoke and color of steamed rice	195
8.5.1 Candle-flame phenomena: Bent or extinguished flames	

8.5.2 Unusual color of steamed rice: Confectioner in Tokyo	
8.5.3 Serpentine smoke from incense and chimneys	
8.6 Thermometer: the contact angle of mercury	198
8.6.1 Thermometer with a rapidly falling mercury level	
8.6.2 Control of contact angle by electric field: Unusual surface phenomenon?	
8.7 Summary	200
9. Mysteries Before Earthquakes:	
— The Behavior of Electric Appliances	201
9.1 Introduction	202
9.2 Magnetic earthquake precursors?	202
9.2.1 Nails falling from a magnet, not a magnetic anomaly!	
9.2.2 Disturbed orientation of a magnetic compass	
9.2.3 Car navigator: Fluctuating direction arrow	
9.2.4 Mischief by an invisible man?	
9.3 Unusual behavior of electric home appliances	206
9.3.1 Faint glow of fluorescent lamp	
9.3.2 Radio interference	
9.3.3 “Barber-pole” color and speckle interference on TV screens	
9.3.4 Strange sounds from refrigerators, spontaneous on-and-off switching of appliances	
9.3.5 Activated mobile phones with no call records	
9.3.6 Assorted unusual reports	
9.4 Mysterious clocks and the “Alice in Wonderland” Syndrome	214
9.4.1 Did time stop or speed up?	
9.4.2 Dead phosphors on a wristwatch	
9.5 Earthquake forecasting using electric appliances?	217
9.6 Care needed to avoid interference in data measurements	218
9.7 Summary	219
10. Forecasting using animal monitoring	220
10.1 Introduction	221
10.2 Parakeets at a Chinese high school	221
10.3 The potential predictive value of mice	222
10.4 Can catfish be used in earthquake forecasting?	224
10.4.1 Observation for 16 years: Alleged success rate of 30 %?	
10.4.2 Correlation between EM pulses (ULF) and catfish behavior	
10.4.3 Aquarium with digital storage oscilloscope (DSO)	
10.4.4 Simultaneous observation of catfish behavior and SEMS: A case for successful forecast of the Western Tottori Earthquake (M7.3, October 6, 2000)	
10.4.5 Catfish in turmoil before the Geiyo earthquake (M 6.7, March 24, 2001)	
10.5 Catfish monitoring network: integrated science education	229

10.6 From Parkfield cockroaches to animals fitted with meters 230

10.7 Forecasting using animals? 231

10.8 Summary 232

11. Monitoring Seismo-Electromagnetic Signals (SEMS)

—a general survey 233

11.1 Introduction 234

11.2 Comments on changes in electric and magnetic fields 234

 11.2.1 The proton magnetometer

 11.2.2 Atmospheric electric field

 11.2.3 DC geoelectric potential

 11.2.4 The VAN method

11.3 Seismo-electromagnetic Signals 240

 11.3.1 Precursory ULF before major earthquakes

 11.3.2 SEMS observed before the Kobe Earthquake

 11.3.3 Ionosphere and VLF anomalies (Kobe Earthquake)

 11.3.4 Observation of SEMS by satellite

 11.3.5 Recording preseismic EM pulses with a Pulse Height Analyzer

 11.3.6 Real-time monitoring of SEMS

 11.3.7 Earth-origin electric pulses and Earth crust waveguide

 11.3.8 Electric field intensity differences between VAN and SEMS

 11.3.9 Empirical scaling relations explained as EM waves

11.4 Summary 257

12. Summary 258

12.1 EM research is still young 258

12.2 Responses to specific objections 260

12.3 Is short-term earthquake prediction possible? 262

12.4 What would be the next steps in the research program? 262

12.5 Conclusion 263

Appendix 1 265

 Questionnaire to scientists and citizens 265

 Are earthquake precursors superstitions or real phenomena ?

 Response

 Analysis

 Reasons for rejection and scepticism

 Summary 267

Appendix 2 269

 Disaster Prevention 269

Bibliography and Reading List 271

Index 283