Natural Science Research Univ. Tokushima (Peer-Reviewed Paper) Vol. 24, No.4 (2010) p. 27-31

## Significance of the direct correlation of ammonite and radiolarian zones in the Izumi Group for integrated biostratigraphy of Late Cretaceous NW paleo-Pacific region

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#### Abstract

The direct correlation of radiolarian and ammonite zones in the Izumi Group were reviewed and revised for integrated biostratigraphy across the Campanian – Maastrichtian boundary. The significance of the direct correlation between mega- and micro-, i.e. between relatively near-shore nektonic and slope-basin planktonic faunas in the same stratigraphic field, was discussed in relation with the litho- and biofacies of the group. The Late Cretaceous ocean climate change and surface seawater current inferred from the radiolarian fauna was considered as a marker event for the chronostratigraphic correlation in the middle latitude continental shelf to slope-basin facies facing towards the NW paleo-Pacific.

Keywords: Late Cretaceous, Campanian – Maastrichtian, ammonite, radiolaria, biostratigraphy, Izumi Group.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Izumi Group (Harada, 1890) of the Upper Cretaceous inter-arc basin deposit along the northern side of the Median Tectonic Line (ex. Takahashi and Yamasaki, 1991) is one of the most important fields for the direct correlation of ammonite and radiolarian biostratigraphy in Japan and NW Pacific region. Both taxa are widely used for the global correlation, whereas their distributions are generally facies controlled as ammonites were relatively near-shore and shallower than radiolarians that are dominantly found in pelagic and deeper marine facies. According to the last reports (Fig.1), the Campanian to Maastrichtian chronological correlation by radiolarian zonation is relatively younger than those by ammonite zonation. To improve the chronological accuracy, direct correlation of ammonite and radiolarian zonations within the same stratigraphic field is necessary. We review the recent status of research compiling the biostratigraphic occurrence of radiolarians and ammonites in the Izumi Group.

#### **GEOLOGICAL OUTLINE**

The Izumi Group, nonconformably overlies the Upper Cretaceous Ryoke volcano-plutonic rock series (ca. 100 – 80 Ma), is distributed in Shikoku, Awaji and Kii areas. The Izumi Group is composed of the continental shelf facies and the slope-basin facies. The former is characterized by the occurrence of ammonites and inoceramids from the pelitic facies above the basal conglomerates. The latter is characterized by turbiditic successions with occurrence of "Archeozostera" that is strongly suggested as a trace fossil referable to Zoophycus ichnofacies (Kotake, 1994) where the fine sediments yields radiolarian faunas. The two lithofacies are intertonguing and well-controlled bv the intercalations of acidic tuff key beds. The succession and lateral extension are both traceable well, because the group forms eastward plunging synclinal structures.

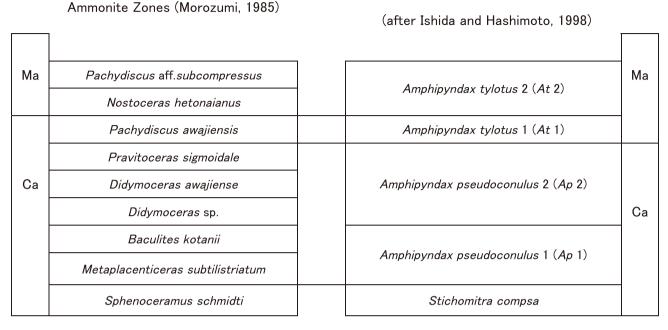


Fig. 1. The direct correlation of ammonite and radiolarian zonations in the Izumi Group.

#### AMMONITE BIOSTRATIGRAPHY

The Campanian - Maastrichtian ammonite zonation of the Izumi Group was subdivided into nine zones, and the Campanian - Maastrichtian boundary was tentatively proposed between the Pachydiscus awajiensis Zone and Nostoceras hetonaianus Zone (Fig. 1: Morozumi, 1985). Among the indices, Pravitoceras sigmoidale, a very short-range zone index assignable to the upper Campanian (Matsumoto et al., 1981), has also discovered within the Inoceramus shikotanensis Zone (Toshimitsu et al., 1995) of the Yezo Supergroup in Hokkaido (Matsunaga et al., 2008). The discovery shows the same situation as in the case of Izumi Group, and will be hopeful for much more precise biostratigraphic correlation between the Yezo Supergroup and the Izumi Group.

#### **RADIOLARIAN BIOSTRATIGRAPHY**

After the compile by Sanfilippo and Riedel (1985), the Cretaceous radiolarian taxonomy and biostratigraphy were reviewed (O'Dogherty et al., 2009). Hollis and Kimura (2001) reviewed the Japan's Campanian and Maastrichtian radiolarian zonations in terms of specific identifications and age determinations. Suyari and Hashimoto (1985) initially reported the occurrence of Campanian radiolarians from the Izumi Group. Yamasaki (1987) firstly

studied the radiolarian zonations of the group. Based on data from the Izumi Group and the selected hemipelagic chert-clastic sequences (mostly trench-slope facies) of the Shimanto Terrane, the Upper Cretaceous radiolarian zonation has proposed by Hashimoto and Ishida (1997) and Ishida and Hashimoto (1998) with respect to the first appearance datum (FAD) and last appearance datum (LAD) of selected indices (Fig.2) as follows in ascending order.

Radiolarian Zones

Amphipyndax pseudoconulus Zone (Ap Zone): The zone starts from FAD of Amphipyndax pseudoconulus to LAD of Pseudodictyomitra koslovae. The FAD of Amphipyndax tylotus subdivides this zone into Ap1 and Ap2 subzones.

Amphipyndax tylotus Zone (At Zone): The zone begins after LAD of Dictyomitra koslovae to the LAD of Amphipyndax pseudoconulus. The LAD of Stichomitra compsa subdivides this zone into At1 and At2 subzones.

Whereas the Maastrichtian radiolarian reports are few in Japan (Taketani, 1995), Hashimoto et al. (2001) reported that the *At2* is correlative with the *Clathrocyclas? gravis* Zone (Hollis and Kimura, 2001) of Maastrichtian. The radiolarian fauna, characterized by the association of *Acaeniotyle diaphorogona*, *A. gedrangta* and *A. starka* with *Stichomitra* cf. *compsa*, is the lowest record from the Izumi Group (Tanaka and Yamasaki, 2000). The faunal horizons are regarded as lower part of the *Dictyomitra koslovae* (DK) Assemblage Zone (Yamasaki, 1987).

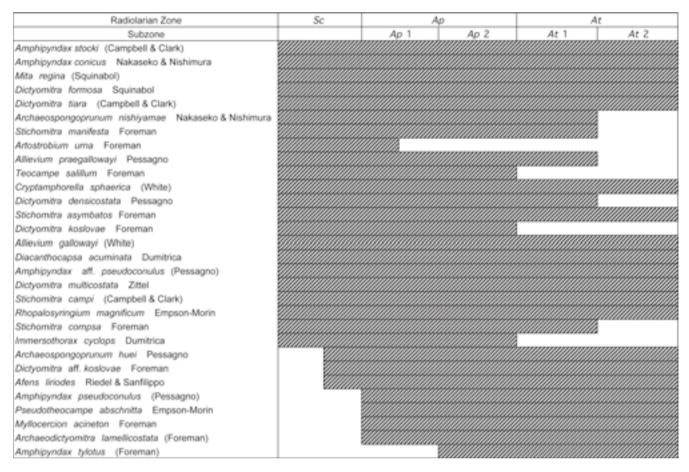


Fig. 2. Selected radiolarian ranges in the Izumi Group and hemipelagic chert-clastic sequences of the Shimanto Terrane (after Ishida and Hashimoto, 1998).

#### OCEAN CLIMATE AND SURFACE SEAWATER CURRENT INFERRED FROM THE RADIOLARIAN FAUNA

Takahashi and Ishii (1993) indicated that the radiolarian fauna of their At Zone in the Izumi Group includes both boreal (relatively high latitude) and warm (low latitude) currents affinities. The former is represented by the association of Stichomitra livermorensis, Lithomellisa sp. and Theocampe altamontensis. The latter is characterized by Ampipyndax pseudoconulus, Theocampe abschinitta, lamellicostata Dictyomitra and *Myllocercion* acineton. The lower and upper zones (Sticomitra compsa Zone and At2 Subzone) are dominated by warm current affinity, whereas the middle zones (Ap Zone to At1 Subzone) are characterized by mixture of both boreal and warm currents affinities. Especially the radiolarian fauna from the upper Ap2 Subzone, that is correlative with the ammonite Pravitoceras sigmoidale Zone, is characterized by dominant occurrence of a boreal affinity Lithomellisa sp. At the period, the boreal current probably reached into the middle latitude Izumi inter-arc basin. It is suggestive that the radiolarian faunal change in the Izumi Group coincides with the appearance of ammonite *Pravitoceras sigmoidale* both in the Yezo Supergroup and Izumi Group. Phylogenetic relation between *Pravitoceras sigmoidale* and *Didymoceras awajiense* is discussed from the view-points of morphological property and the existence of their transitional forms (Misaki et al., 2009; Misaki and Maeda, 2010).

# CHRONOLOGICAL DISCUSSION OF THE RADIOLARIAN ZONATION

Magnetostratigraphic chron 32r was recognized in the Izumi Group (Kodama, 1990), and was regarded as Upper Campanian (Kodama et al., 2002). The fission track dating of two acidic tuff beds in the *P. sigmoidale* Zone indicates 73 and 78 Ma (Morozumi, 1997: personal com.). Chronological viewpoint, last radiolarian reports suggested that the ammonite zones are relatively older than radiolarian ones around the Campanian – Maastrichtian border. We mark the importance of their co-occurrence and stratigraphic intercalations in the same basin, and propose that the radiolarian zonal boundary of Ap2 and At1 is correlative with the ammonite zonal boundary between *Pacydiscus awajiensis* Zone and *Pravitoceras sigmoidale* Zone (Fig.1).

The confirmed ranges of the selected radiolarian species in the Izumi Group and Shimanto Supergroup (Fig. 2) represents the vertical faunal transition in the Late Cretaceous middle latitude inter-arc basin to trench slope facies facing towards the NW Pacific. The faunal change from At1 to At2is marked by LAD of S. compsa as well as A. nishiyamae, S. manifesta, A. praegallowayi, D. densicostata and D. multicostata. The At1 to At 2 faunal change represents the radiolarian faunal recovery by warm current affinities, and the change is remarkable than that from Ap 2 to At 1 marked by LAD of D. koslovae, I. cyclops and T. salillum. Conclusively, the ocean climate change event inferred from the radiolarian faunal transition will be useful for much more precise chronological correlation around the Campanian - Maastrichtian boundary.

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#### SUMMARY

The direct correlation of radiolarian and ammonite zones in the Izumi Group were reviewed and revised for more accurate biostratigraphy across the Campanian – Maastrichtian boundary. In relation with the litho- and biofacies property of the Izumi Group, the significance of the direct correlation in the same stratigraphic field was discussed for unified global correlation of different categories. The Late Cretaceous ocean climate change and surface seawater current inferred from the radiolarian fauna was considered as a marker event for the chronostratigraphic correlation in the middle latitude continental self to slope-basin facies facing towards the NW paleo-Pacific.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincere thank to Prof. Jiro Takahashi of the Ehime University for reading the manuscript and gave us useful suggestions.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Paleontological Society of Japan, New Series, no.123, 168-178.

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Article history:

Received MS - September 2, 2010 Received revised MS – September 21, 2010

Accepted MS – September 21, 2010