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8. Recovery of *Pleioblastus variegatus* from Flowering in the Aso Region -Results of the 17th Year-

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Miscanthus-Pleioblastus type grasslands is typical vegetation in the semi-natural grasslands of the Aso region, and the grassland has been historically managed by grazing and mowing in summer and burning in early spring. However, in 1992, a phenomenon occurred whereby *Pleioblastus variegatus* flowered all together and died within a wide range of West Japan. In the Aso north somma, the withering area extended to 2,150ha. No previous reports have described the process of recovery of *Pleioblastus variegatus* in the Aso region. In this study, to investigate the effect of grazing on the recovery of *Pleioblastus variegatus* on the semi-natural grasslands in which *Pleioblastus variegatus* had dominated before it flowered, we compared the grazing area and the grazing prohibition area. An earlier paper (Ootaki and Nasu, 1995) described the growth of *Pleioblastus variegatus* seedlings, which exhibited slow recovery due to the dominance of other species (*Miscanthus sinensis* and *Arundinella hirta*) at the second year after flowering. By the 17th year, *Miscanthus sinensis* was the most dominant species in both the grazing area and the grazing prohibition area. *Pleioblastus variegatus* was the next dominant species in the grazing area, and the rate of coverage of *Miscanthus sinensis* and of *Pleioblastus variegatus* were 56.7% and 25.3% respectively. In contrast, in the grazing prohibition area *Pleioblastus variegatus* did not appear among the top 10 dominant species. Therefore, we conclude that grazing hastens the recovery of *Pleioblastus variegatus* in the Aso region.