

## Sequential changes in valve size distribution of planktonic diatoms from Hiruzenbara Formation, Okayama

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Fossil freshwater planktonic diatoms from laminated diatomite in Middle Pleistocene Hiruzenbara Formation were observed. *Stephanodiscus komoroensis* was abundantly observed mainly in light-colored laminae and *Puncticulata* sp. was dominated in dark-colored laminae. Former occurred through the 20-m thick section but latter did not occur from uppermost 2-m thick section. Abundance of *S. komoroensis* is smaller than 10 % in the section with *Puncticulata* sp. and quickly increased to almost 100 % occurrence in the section without *Puncticulata* sp. Valve size distribution of *S. komoroensis* sequentially changed: large size (80-100 micro-m in diameter) dominated in the section with abundant *Puncticulata* sp.: dominant size range shifted to 100-120 micro-m in the section just beneath that without *Puncticulata* sp.: small size (40-60 micro-m in diameter or less) occurred more than 30 % in the section without *Puncticulata* sp. Our results of species composition and their size distribution generally coincident with previous studies and give insight to competition between planktonic diatom species.

This work was supported by JSPS KAKENHI 21540476.

Keywords: diatom, valve size, Hiruzenbara Formation, lacustrine deposit, laminated diatomite