On the structure of banding observed on the walls of inflation clefts of the Aokigahara flow lobes, Motosuko Lake

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A.D. 864 Aokigahara Lava flowed mainly as aa lava and covers the northwestern foot of Fuji volcano. Approximately 36 lava lobes protruded from the aa front along the coast of Motosuko Lake. Most lobes have a few longitudinal inflation clefts running parallel to the elongation of the lobes. The clefts have alternating red and grey stripes on the cleft wall parallel to the axis of the clefts. The stripes exist only within 1 cm deep from the surface of the walls. The groundmass of the grey stripes contains abundant dendritic crystallites, while that of the red stripes consists of palagonitized glass. We suggest that these difference in crystal density and habit resulted from the varying degree of supercooling due to steep temperature gradient through the clefts.