Stratigraphy of the Upper Permian Kamura limestone in central Kyushu: ancient cap reef on paleo-seamount

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The Late Permian Kamura limestone in central Kyushu was analyzed bio- and lithostratigraphically. According to fusulinid biostratigraphy, this limestone is divided into Yabeina Zone, Codonofusiella-Reichelina Zone, and Palaeofusulina Zone in ascending order. These three zones are correlated to the Maokoan, the Wuchiapingian and the Changhsingian of South China, respectively. The Wuchiapingian stage is first recognized in the Kamura limestone. This limestone represents a fragment of cap reef primarily developed on paleoseamount, and secondarily accreted to Japan in the Jurassic. This Late Permian limestone represents the first example of pelagic shallow-water sediments that record environments of the superocean Panthalassa immediately before the P-T boundary mass extinction.