

Sandstone chimneys discovered on the Kuroshima Knoll, south of Yaeyama Islands

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Diving surveys were carried out on the top of Kuroshima Knoll (643-810 m in depth) off Ishigaki Island using with "Dolphin 3K" and "Shinkai 2000" in 1997. Many sandstone chimneys and carbonate crusts were discovered in or near *Calyptogena* colonies. They consist mainly of fine-grained terrigenous materials and micrite cements. It is clear that movements with methane seep have been occurred since late Pleistocene time, accompanied with tectonic subsidence. Sandstone chimneys were formed along the paths of methane-bearing fluid.