

Stable isotope ratios of high concentration CO₂ in the depression and its surroundings of Mt. Hakkoda, Aomori

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The origin of high concentration CO₂ in the depression of Mt. Hakkoda, Aomori, was discussed using d¹³C data of CO₂. The high concentration CO₂ (about 20 % (v/v)) at the bottom of the depression was characterized by high d¹³C values. On the other hand, d¹³C values of the normal soil CO₂ in 50 cm depth (about 1 %) were low. The CO₂ observed in this area is derived from the mixing of the deep source CO₂ and the soil CO₂. CO₂ dissolved in hot springs and groundwaters with low pH values showed higher d¹³C values and the decomposition of oceanic carbonate with strong acid could not be neglected. Besides the soil CO₂, the presence of two sources with different high d¹³C values should be taken into consideration to understand all the d¹³C values observed in this area.

The origin of high concentration CO₂ in the depression and its surroundings of Mt. Hakkoda, Aomori, was discussed using d¹³C data of CO₂ in the atmosphere and that dissolved in hot springs and the soil CO₂. The high concentration CO₂ (about 20 % (v/v)) at the bottom of the depression was characterized by high d¹³C values (about - 9 permil (vs. the PDB standard)). On the other hand, d¹³C values of the normal soil CO₂ in 50 cm depth (about 1 %) were from -28 to -27 permil. d¹³C values of other soil CO₂ and those in the air in 10 m bore holes were ranged between these two extreme values. These facts suggest that the CO₂ observed in this area is derived from the mixing of the deep source CO₂ and the soil CO₂. The origins of the deep source CO₂ are in the mantle and/or thermal metamorphism of oceanic carbonate rocks and organic debris, and d¹³C values of the deep source CO₂ is much larger than that of the soil CO₂ of biological origin (Sano, 1996). CO₂ dissolved in hot springs and groundwaters with low pH values showed higher d¹³C values such as - 3.4 permil and the decomposition of oceanic carbonate with acid could not be neglected. Besides the soil CO₂, the presence of two sources with different high d¹³C values should be taken into consideration to understand all the d¹³C values observed in this area.