

G022-P002

Time: May 30 17:00-18:30

Stratigraphic study of the Lower Miocene Uchimura Formation in the Northern Fossa Magna region, central Japan

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The Lower Miocene Uchimura Formation is exposed extensively in the Uchimura Mountain eastward of Matsumoto City, Nagano Prefecture. The rocks of the eastern part of this mountain are mainly altered marine volcanoclastic sediments. On the other hand, nonvolcanoclastic sediments that are lithologically subdivided into eight members are widely distributed in the western part.

In this area, a broad and gentle syncline whose axis trends north or northeast was observed.

Gravel composition and paleo-current directions of marine sediments included in these nonvolcanoclastic sediments indicate that the provenance of marine sediments may be transported from the southern area of the Uchimura Mountain. These sediments have yielded abundant benthic foraminifers that suggest middle bathyal zone.