

International Wintertime Sprite Campaign in 2001-2002, in Japan

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The teams from Tohoku University and Stanford University carried out the joint observation campaign of lightning-induced transient luminous events called sprites and elves at Iitate Observatory, Fukushima, (37.7N,140.7E) from December 28, 2001 to February 8, 2002. The operated instruments are IICCD cameras, multianode array photometers (MAPs), a telescope CCD imager and a wide angle spectrophotometer (WASP). In the period of January 12 -February 8, 2002, an IICCD was also operated at the campus of Gunma University, Maebashi (36.23N,139.04E). Further an ELF seachcoil magnetometer installed at Onagawa Observatory (38.25N,141.25E) was operated continuously during this campaign. We succeeded in acquiring 22 of sprite events: 5 events above the Pacific Ocean and 17 events above Hokuriku and Niigata. The events above Pacific Ocean had the types of both columniform and carrot sprites while the events above Hokuriku and Niigata were only columniform sprites mostly with preceding sprite halos.