

Discovery of unconformity between the Lower Cretaceous Sanchu Group and serpentinite in the northwestern Kanto Mountains

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The Lower Cretaceous Sanchu Group which consists of brackish and marine sediments is narrowly distributed along the axial part of the Chichibu Belt in the Kanto Mountains. Serpentinite bodies occur mainly along the southwestern edge of the Lower Cretaceous distribution area. The Sanchu Group and serpentinite were formerly considered to be in a fault-contact, but we have discovered an outcrop where the Sanchu Group unconformably covers serpentinite.

The unconformity surface between the Sanchu Group (the Shiroi Formation by Matsukawa, 1983) and serpentinite is exposed along the river about 100 m long, and is nearly flat. The basal part of the Shiroi Formation frequently contains serpentinite clasts. In the other areas, however, the Sanchu Group and serpentinite are in a fault-contact. We conclude that serpentinite occurs in two patterns of occurrence as a constituent of fault zone and as a basement rock.