

# A discovery of bone-bearing bed from the Kiyokawa Formation, in Sodegaura City, Chiba Prefecture, central Japan

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In March 1999, lecturer discovered tooth and leg bone fossils of *Palaeoloxodon naumanni* (Makiyama, 1924) from a crop of the Middle Pleistocene Kiyokawa Formation, the Shimosa Group, at Yoshinoda, Sodegaura City, Chiba Prefecture. We enforced prospective excavations, and it was ascertained that numerous terrestrial vertebrate fossils (Testudines, Artiodactyla, Carnivora) occurred from this crop. In 2001, we obtained a grant of the Fujiwara Natural History Foundation and started full-scale excavations.

By excavations to extend for about 50 days, over 500 materials of terrestrial vertebrate fossils have been gathered. Furthermore, we have obtained many fossils of fishes, freshwater molluscs and plants (leaves, pollens, diatoms). While excavating, we accumulated sedimentological and chemical information by detailed observation of stratum section. As a result, it became clear that the bone-bearing bed was flood-plain deposits and vertebrate remains might be accumulated by a mudflow accompanying with flooding.

Many terrestrial vertebrate fossils discovered from the Shimosa Group in the past, but they have hardly detailed sedimentological information. It is expected by this study that sedimentological characteristics of organic remains included in flood-plain deposits become clear and comprehension of terrestrial organisms conditions progresses.