

Permian radiolarians from the Nishiichi and Dai areas of the Nagato Tectonic Zone, Southwest Japan

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Permian radiolarian fossils were discovered from two places of the Nagato Tectonic Zone, in the western Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan. The distribution of the Nagato Tectonic Zone is divided into five areas: Misumi, Dai, Nishiichi, Toyogatake and Ozuki areas. The Nagato Tectonic Zone is composed of serpentinite, schist, Paleozoic sedimentary rocks, Mesozoic sedimentary rocks and Mesozoic intrusive rocks. The Paleozoic sedimentary rocks is subdivided into the Higashihirano Formation, the Dai Group and the Toyohigashi Group.

1) Radiolarians and sponge spicules were found from green massive chert of the Toyohigashi Group, at Soegasako in the Nishiichi area. The radiolarian fauna, composed of *Pseudotormentus kamigoriensis*, *Raciditor gracilis*, *Raciditor inflata*, *Kimagior manica* and others, indicates Middle - Late Permian in age. The fauna of sponge spicule is monaxons, triaxons and tetraxons with rare rhax. According to the faunas and lithology of chert, the chert corresponds to the Middle Permian chert of the Akiyoshi terrane.

2) Radiolarians and sponge spicules were found from mudstone of the Dai Group, at Hisage in the Dai area. The radiolarian fauna, composed of *Albaillella sinuata*, *Pseudotormentus kamigoriensis* and others, indicates late Early Permian in age. Because the age of mudstone of the Akiyoshi terrane is commonly late Middle - earliest Late Permian, the Dai Group around the Hisage area does not correspond to the Akiyoshi terrane, while it corresponds to the Maizuru terrane or Hida-Gaien belt.