

Event deposits in the Okinoshima Jomon Site, Chiba Prefecture, central Japan

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The early Holocene deposits including potteries, stone artifacts and bones of dolphins are excavated from the Okinoshima Site in the east beach of Okinoshima, Tateyama-city, central Japan. The age of these remains are correlated to the early stage of the Jomon Culture (Chiba university archeological department, 2004). The geological section of the studied area is divided into three units of I, II and III in ascending order. Unit I is massive yellowish brown-bluish green color silt (20-80cm thick). Unit II is the blackish brown silt (30-60cm) in which pumice, piece of woods, dolphin bones, potteries and stone artifacts are scattered. Unit III abuts on the underlying unit II. It is composed of medium to coarse-grained sand with trough and swale cross-stratifications and inverse graded beds (20-120cm). The sand is divided into several subunits by the thin silt layers (1-5cm). In the lower part of this unit, leaves of *Persea thunbergii* (Lauraceae), seeds of *Camellia japonica* (Camelliaceae) and aquatic *Potamogeton* (Potamogetonaceae) are yielded.

The unit I and II were accumulation in closed waters like a pond. The plants fossils show surrounding evergreen broadleaved forests with the occurrence of ponds. The deposit of unit III might be carried by a flow with high energy like a flood, a storm wave or tsunami. AMS datings of plants in Unit II including the archaeological remains indicate 7,830-7,640 cal yrs BC and 7,750-7,600 cal yrs BC that are concordant to the age estimated from potteries. These strata will give important information to the reconstruct such as paleoclimate and paleoearthquake in the early Holocene.

Reference

Chiba university archeological department(2004) The first excavation report of the Okinoshima Jomon Site.