

Lower Pleistocene tephra layers discovered from the Hikita Formation in the Urizura Hill, Ibaraki Prefecture

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A total of 24 tephra layers were discovered from the lower Pleistocene Hikita Formation in the Urizura Hill area, Ibaraki Prefecture. In this study, we correlated some well-preserved ones with the widely distributed well-known index tephras in the Kanto region. A characteristic pumiceous tephra, Fyupgm is correlated with Ku5b of the Kazusa Formation, Chiba Prefecture. Two pink-colored tephras, Tapk2 and Tapk3 are respectively correlated with YS of the Uonuma Formation, Niigata Prefecture and SK020 of the Uonuma Formation and also U8 of the Kazusa Formation, Chiba. A tephra layer called SaUn in the lower part of the Hikita Formation is correlated with Kd 8 of the Kiwada Formation, Chiba. These tephra layers are also traceable to the Tomobe Formation in the southern Tomobe area, so both of the upper part of the Hikita and the Tomobe formations seem to be correlative and equivalent to MIS21. Therefore, the Quaternary sediments forming the Urizura Hill terrace is inferred to be not the middle Pleistocene as estimated previously, but the lower Pleistocene.