Geochemical characteristics of hot spring water from Shiba-toge spa, Tokamachi, Niigata, central Japan

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Geochemical analysis was carried out for the hot spring water sample obtained from Shiba-toge spa, Tokamachi, Niigata, central Japan. This hot spring water showed relatively large d¹⁸O (-0.2permil), compared with Cl⁻ (4800ppm). Similar geochemical characteristics are observed in Matsunoyama (Tokamachi, Niigata), Yukidaruma (Joetsu, Niigata), Wakkanai, Enbetsu, Toyotomi and Nakagawa (northern Hokkaido) hot spring waters, and also in oil field brines from Niigata and Akita areas.

 Cl^- and $d^{18}O$ values of these waters are distributed between type A brine, which Cl^- is similar to seawater and $d^{18}O$ is in -4 to -6 permil, and type B brine, which Cl^- is relatively low and $d^{18}O$ is in +4 to +10 permil. The former is consistent with lowest $d^{18}O$ oil field brine, and the latter with water released from clay and/or zeolite minerals shown by Yasuda (1996). It is also deduced that these waters are formed under less or small contribution of meteoric water.

Near Shiba-toge, Matsunoyama and Yukidaruma hot springs, there are Matsudai mud volcanoes, and there is Utakoshibetsu mud volcano nearby Enbetsu hot spring, too. Shiba-toge spa and Matsudai (Gamo and Murono) mud volcanoes lie along the Gamo syncline, and geochemical feature of water samples obtained from Mstsudai (Murono) mud volcano ($Cl^{-}=4000$ ppm, $d^{18}O=-2.5$ permil) is so similar to that of Shiba-toge spa.