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Paleomagnetic directions of Early Miocene sedimentary rocks in the Shitara area in central Japan: tectonic significance

Hiroyuki Hoshi[1]

[1] Dept. Earth Sci., Aichi Univ. Educ.

<http://www.earth.aichi-edu.ac.jp/~hoshi/>

We present new Early Miocene paleomagnetic results from the Shitara area in central Japan. Sedimentary rock samples were collected from 32 sites in two subareas (Midono and Kaore), and were subjected to paleomagnetic analyses including detailed stepwise demagnetization (af and thermal) of natural remanent magnetization and rock magnetic experiments. Results from the Midono subarea provide a magnetic polarity stratigraphy that is correlated to an Early Miocene (18-17 Ma) portion of the standard geomagnetic chronostratigraphy. Site-mean directions from the Kaore subarea are characterized by a southwesterly declination (reversed polarity) and a moderate inclination, suggesting clockwise rotation after deposition. The clockwise rotation will be discussed in the light of geological structures of central Japan.