

Variation of Yukikabe Snow-Patch in Daisetsu Mts., Hokkaido

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The extent of Yukikabe Snow Patch in Daisetsu Mts. has been observed in long period since 1964 by Low Temperature Institute, Hokkaido University, at first and then by Kitami Institute of Technology. The snow patch is located on the south-eastward face slope of flat plateau of Takane-ga-hara, which was accumulated mainly by snow drift transported through the plateau by prevailing western wind in winter.

The snow-patch extent in the annual minimum has been surveyed in the end of melting season, usually in the end of September.

In the observation period from 1964, the maximum extent was 2600 m² in 1976, and the minimum was 130 m² in 1991. The large extent period was 1973 to 1977. The peculiar feature of the extent variation is flip-flop type change. The extent was large in several years and then suddenly changed to small period in two or three years. This change is not only by climate change, which would be caused by other reasons of surface dust, accumulation pattern and so on.

