

APE025-04

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過去1.3万年における中国南西部の泥炭堆積物中のn-アルカンの炭素同位体比変動

Stable carbon isotopic compositions of n-alkanes in the Hongyuan peat sequence from southwest China over the last 13 ka

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A peat bog deposit is an accumulation of immature organic matter composed mainly of dead plant material from various types of plants, including submerged, floating and emersed aquatic plants and terrestrial higher plants. In general, emersed aquatic and terrestrial higher plants contain long chain n-alkanes (C₂₇, C₂₉ and C₃₁) in their epicuticular waxes, whereas submerged/floating aquatic plants contain a large proportion of mid-chain n-alkanes (C₂₃ and C₂₅). Therefore, the d¹³C values of peat n-alkanes can provide clues to the paleoenvironmental information recorded in each type of plant, such as changes in continental hydrology, CO₂ availability, vegetation and productivity in a bog. In southwest China, Holocene peat mires are widely distributed on the northeast edge of the Tibetan Plateau, which provide a good opportunity to examine the paleoenvironment significance of d¹³C variations in peat n-alkanes because of the existing paleoclimatic information. In this study, we measure ¹³C/¹²C ratios of the C₂₃, C₂₅, C₂₇, C₂₉ and C₃₁ n-alkanes in the Hongyuan peat sequence from southwest China to decipher paleoenvironmental information recorded in the d¹³C variations over the last 13 ka.

Our samples consist of 1 cm intervals taken every 10 cm in the 4.5 m core recovered at a location 2 km southeast of the city of Hongyuan in the Sichuan Province, southwest China. Aliphatic hydrocarbons were ultrasonically extracted with chloroform from ca. 2 g of freeze dried sample and isolated using silica gel column chromatography. The ¹³C/¹²C ratios of n-alkanes were determined using a HP 6890 gas chromatograph coupled to a Finnigan MAT Delta Plus isotope ratio mass spectrometer.

The d¹³C values of C₂₃ to C₃₁ odd carbon numbered n-alkanes range between -35.4 and -30.5 permil, which fall within the range of those observed for n-alkanes from modern C₃ peat-forming vegetation. However, their vertical trends do not match with those in the d¹³C value of the C₃ peat-forming plant cellulose. Such a discrepancy between the d¹³C profiles implies that the n-alkane d¹³C values are unlikely to reflect the emersed aquatic plant signals in the bog. Because submerged/floating aquatic plants are major contributors of mid-chain (C₂₃ and C₂₅) n-alkanes in the Hongyuan peat sequence, the decoupling between the C₂₃ and C₂₅ n-alkanes and the peat cellulose likely reflects that these mid-chain homologues primarily record the isotopic signals of submerged/floating aquatic plants. The stratigraphic profile of d¹³C values of submerged/floating aquatic plant n-alkanes (C₂₃ and C₂₅) reveals two prominent positive excursions (0.8 to 2.4 permil) during the

early to middle Holocene. The excursions coincide with peat accumulation maxima and stronger Indian monsoon activity in southwest China, indicating that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ variations in submerged/floating aquatic plants are closely related to changes in bog primary productivity controlled by the Asian monsoon activity. Although these relations should be confirmed by studies of more widespread regions, our results indicate that the $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values of submerged aquatic plant n-alkanes can serve as a new proxy for climate-influenced bog primary productivity in southwest China.

キーワード:泥炭,炭素同位体比, n-アルカン,完新世,アジアモンスーン

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