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Spread topography in Japan

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Spread which is defined that subsidence, rotation and disintegration of overlying hard strata due to flow of underlying soft ones, is a one of types of landslides. In Japan, a few cases including ones induced by earthquake were reported. Possible topography due to the spread in Japan is introduced preliminarily. The followings may be the cases: a) southern part of Okinawa Island, and eastern islands of the Katsuren Peninsula, b) Kuwana city, Mie Prefecture, c) Mino highland, Gifu Prefecture, d) Ichihasama River basin, southern foot of Kurikomayama mountain, Miyagi Prefecture, e) northern foot of Karibayama mountain, Hokkaido. These cases have the common geological structure that hard rocks like welded tuff (c, d), lava (e) and limestone (a) lie extensively and most flatly on the soft rocks such as mudstone and tuff, other than (b) that is perhaps triggered by earthquake. The spread topography as shown here is probably distributed everywhere in Japan. Although some cases are recognized as active faults topography, the recognition should be done carefully.

Keywords: spread, landslides, active faults