

Landforms and Vegetation of Limestone Area in the Northernmost Part of the Suzuka Mountains

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Objective of the study is to make clear the relationship between the karst landforms and vegetation in the area of Mt. Ryouzen summit, Shiga prefecture. Geology of the study area mainly consists of limestone. And the karst landforms of the study area are characterized as the karrenfeld and doline. Mountain slopes in the study area are classified and mapped. And the distribution of the dolines was plotted on the map. The shape of dolines in the area was classified into 4 types from the viewpoint of existence of bottom flat and the inner slope condition. Characteristics of the vegetation in the study area are generally related to the condition of mountain slopes. Woody vegetation is distributed in the area of gentle slope, and herbaceous plant mainly distributes in the steep slopes of the region. Distribution of plants on the inner part of the doline wall is related to the direction of the inner wall. Vegetation of the north-facing slopes is characterized by low grasses. In the slopes and bottoms of doline, vegetation is generally sparse or barren condition.

Keywords: karst landform, Mt. Ryouzen, doline, slope, vegetation