

## Quaternary geology along the Tonda-gawa river, Wakayama Prefecture, Kii Peninsula

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### Abstract

The study on the Quaternary System in Shikoku was nearly finished, and in order to compare it, the writers surveyed along the Tonda-gawa river, Wakayama Prefecture, Kii Peninsula, and the Quaternary System was made clear. The followings are concluded: The area except the Pre-Tertiary bed rocks, is mainly occupied by the Pleistocene deposits and Holocene Alluvial ones. The Pre-terrace deposits of the Early Pleistocene is the Toudou Formation (Mitusio *et al.*, 1998d), and the Middle Pleistocene of the Higher Terrace deposits, H, is the Kodougaoka Formation. The Late Pleistocene is divided into two; the Middle Terrace deposits and the Lower Terrace ones, and the former is such as the Kurisugawa Formation of the Middle Terrace deposits, MI, and the Akugawa Formation of the Middle Terrace deposits, MII. The latter is the Lower Terrace deposits of the Hokusogi Formation, L. The Holocene sediments are also divided into two of the Alluvial Terrace deposits of the Mukouda Formation, A I, and the wide Alluvial Plain, A II. These strata are correlated with those of the other areas mainly in Shikoku and partly in Kyushu and Honshu, as well as in north Taiwan.

### Introduction

The writers have been surveying the Quaternary System since 1966 in Shikoku Island (Mitusio *et al.*, 1966; 1967; 1971; 1974; 1977a; 1977b; 1985a; 1985b; 1987a; 1987b; Imai *et al.*, 1968; Nakamura *et al.*, 1972; Mimoto and Mitusio, 1982). According to these results, Mitusio and Furukawa (1988b) reported the Quaternary strata in Shikoku. After that, the Quaternary strata were surveyed in various areas such as Geisei Village (Mitusio *et al.*, 1988a), central parts (Mitusio, *et al.*, 1991c), Muroto Peninsula (Mitusio, 1989a; 1990a; 1990b; 1991a; Mitusio and Yasuda, 1989b), Ashizuri Peninsula (Mitusio *et al.*, 1989b; 1989c; 1991c; 1991d; Mitusio and Nishikawa, 1991b), Shimanto river (Mitusio and Yamashita, 1990c; Mitusio *et al.*, 1995b), Kohnokawa (Takahashi *et al.*, 1989), Hiji-kawa (Kashima *et al.*, 1992b) and Iwamatsugawa (Mitusio *et al.*, 1992b) of Ehime Prefecture,

and in the Tsushima Straits (Mitusio and Yasuda, 1990b), as well as the Holocene System in whole Shikoku (Ogura *et al.*, 1989) and in Kochi Prefecture (Mitusio, 1996c). According to these data, Mitusio and Kagami (1992a) again compiled the Quaternary System in Shikoku.

Then before and after 1992, the results of the following areas were reported: In Kagawa Prefecture (Mitusio *et al.*, 1995c; Ueki and Mitusio, 1998). In Ehime Prefecture; The Towns of Misaki and Seto of Misaki Peninsula, and along the Kurose-gawa tributary of the Hiji river, and Johen Town (Kashima *et al.*, 1991a; 1991b; 1991c; 1996) and the rivers of Sohja-gawa and Tonda-gawa (Mitusio *et al.*, 1995b; 1996), and the Hiromi river (Mitusio and Kashima, 1994b) and in Johen Town (Mitusio *et al.*, 1995a). In Tokushima Prefecture; Along the rivers of Yoshino-gawa (Mitusio and Shima, 1993c; Mitusio and Hashimoto, 1994c), Nakagawa (Mitusio and Kuribayashi, 1997), Akui-gawa (Mitusio and Ikeno, 1998) and Katsuura-

gawa (Mitusio and Sasaki MS). In Kochi Prefecture; Muroto Peninsula and in Tosa bay (Kagami *et al.*, 1992a; 1992b; 1992c; 1993), along the Monobe river (Mitusio, 1992; 1996; 1997a; Mitusio and Kawaguchi, 1993), the Hage tributary of the Niyodo river (Mitusio and Noda, 1994a) and along the Matsuda river (Mitusio and Kashima, 1996). In Kyushu (Mitusio, 1996; Mitusio and Igarashi, 1996). In the Nohbi Plain near Nagoya (Mitusio, 1973). And from the viewpoints of Archaeology related with Quaternary geology in Kochi Prefecture (Mitusio, 1985; 1986a; 1986b). And those also related with marine geology, many results were reported (for example, Mitusio and Guruge, 1994d; Mitusio, 1998a).

In addition, under the study series of "diagenesis-ology", that is the hydrothermal experiments of making sedimentary rocks, especially chert, limestone and dolomite, one of the writer, Mitusio *et al.* (1998) reported mainly about silica diagenesis, since 1977 (Mitusio *et al.*, 1977; Mitusio and Matsuoka, 1978) until now (Mitusio and Watanabe, 1997b). Moreover, under the titles of "Interactions between Lithosphere and Hydrosphere", Mitusio reported some water characters of north India (Mitusio, 1996b) north and Taiwan (Mitusio,

1999) as the number 16 of this series since 1990. Besides above-mentioned several backgrounds, the study on the Quaternary System in the Shikoku Island was nearly finished, so that the writers began to survey the Quaternary strata of the Kii Peninsula in order to correlate them in Shikoku and Kyushu. And the ealy Pleistocene Toudshima Formation near Tanabe Bay, Shirahama, Wakayama Prefecture, Kii Peninsula, is defined and reported (Mitusio, Kanzaki, and Kuribayashi, 1998).

Here, in addition to it, the writers report the results of the Quaternary geology along the Tonda-gawa river, southwestern part of Wakayama Prefecture, Kii Peninsula (Fig.1).

### Outline of Topography and Geology

This area locates to the western part of Wakayama Prefecture of southwest Kii Peninsula, and this area is just facing directly to the Kii Straits. And the Tonda-gawa river system here is as follows (Fig.2): The Tonda-gawa river, starting from the high mountainous area of Mt.Kasatou (1,049m) and Mt.Senjyou (1,026m), those locate nearly at the central part of the Kii Mountains, flows almost linearly from the northeast to southwest direction, and it directly pours into the Kii Straits, that divides Shikoku and the Kii Peninsula, Honshu. Along this river, seven flat terrace plains are found, and the Quaternary strata forming these terrace plains are newly defined except the Pre-terrace Toudshima Formation defined by Mitusio, Kanzaki and Kuribayashi (1998). The river length is about 45km, and the drainage area along this river is considerably wide, and the longitudinal profile of this river as well as the terrace plains is shown in Fig.2.

As for the background geology along the Tonda-gawa river, the bed rocks belong to the Cretaceous and Tertiary Shimanto Terrain, and the Middle Miocene Tanabe Group (Nakazawa *et al.*, 1988; Tanabe Group Co-lab. Group, 1984). On their basament rocks, the Quaternary strata cover them unconformably, and Yonekura (1968) reported the marine terrace and crustal movements around here. Nakamura (1973) also reported the palynological study of the middle marine Akuga-

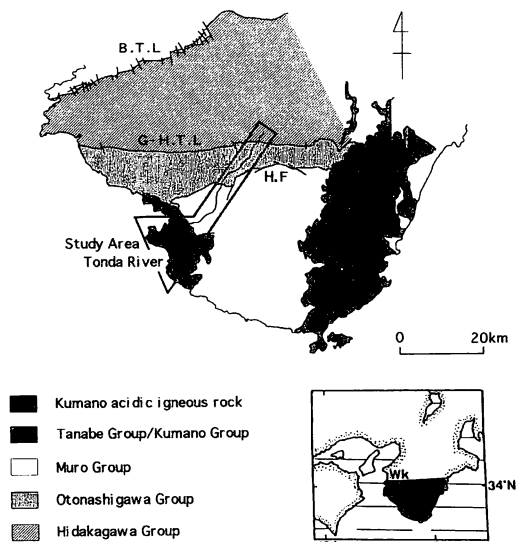


Fig. 1. Index map showing the study area along the Tonda-gawa river (revised after Co-lab. Study Group for the Tanabe Group, 1984)

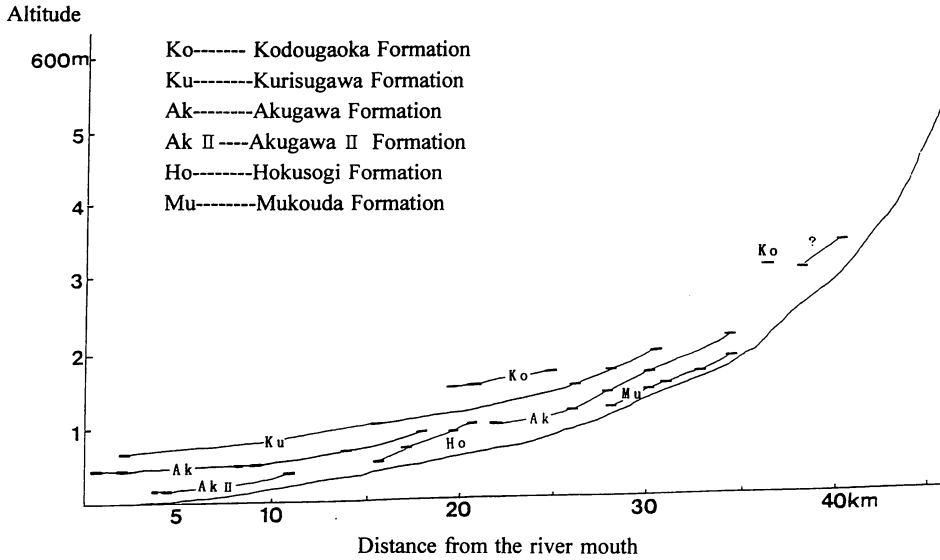


Fig. 2. Longitudinal profile of each Formation and the river section along the Tondagawa river Ak II, fluvial terrace Ak, marine terrace

wa Formation from which the analyzed samples were collected by one of the writer, Mitusio.

Then the writers defined the Toudshima Formation near Tanabe Bay as the Early Pleistocene (Mitusio *et al.*, 1998). Here the writers defined newly the Quaternary strata names, and they are as follows in descending order: The Early Pleistocene Pre-terrace deposits of the Toudshima Formation, forming no flat plain. The Middle Pleistocene of the Kodougaoka Formation forming the Higher Terrace, H. The Late Pleistocene forms two terraces of the Middle Teraces of MI and MII, and the Lower Terrace of L. MI is the Kurisugawa Formationis while MII is the Akugawa Formation, and L is the Hokusogi Formation. And the Holocene strata are also divided into two: AI of the Holoene terrace of the MukoudaFormation, and AII forming the wide Alluvial plain but it is not defined here.

**Description of the Quaternary System**

The Quaternary System of the Ealy to Late Pleistocene and Holocene along the Tonda-gawa river is described in descending order.

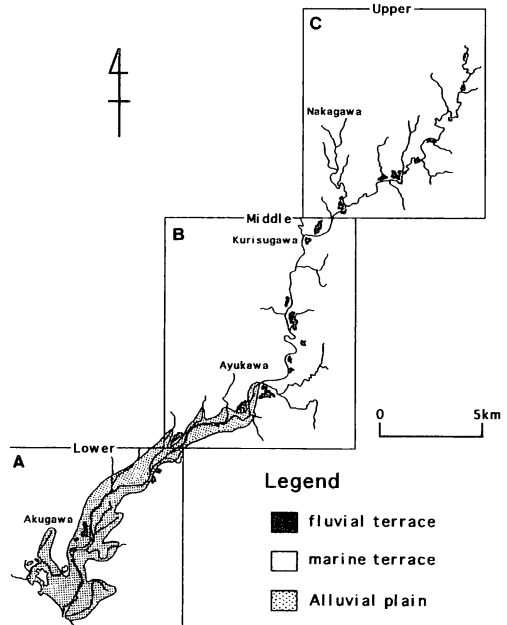


Fig. 3. Generalized distribution of the Quaternary terrace and Alluvial plain along the Tondagawa river A, down-stream area and near sea coast area B, middle-stream area C, upper-stream area

1. Early Pleistocene Toudou Formation = Pre-Terrace Deposits

The Early Pleistocene in this area is already named and reported as the Toudou Formation by the writers (Mitusio, Kanzaki and Kuribayashi, 1998), and the details should be referred to it.

2. Middle Pleistocene

The Middle Pleistocene in this surveyed area is newly named as the Higher Terrace Deposits of the Kodougaoka Formation (Tab. 1).

Author: Kanzaki, T. and Mitusio, T. (1998)

Name: Kodougaoka Formation

Type locality: Kodougaoka, Nakahechi Town, Wakayama Prefecture, loc.a

Thickness: 5-6m

Distribution height: 300-150m

Relative height from the river bottom: 100-90m

Topographical plain: Kodougaoka Terrace Plain = Higher Terrace, H

Distribution: This Formation distributes continuously in a narrow area along the mid-stream of the Tonda-gawa river, however it exists only one point at the upper-stream of the same river. This is composed mainly of gravels and sands, intercalated occasionally with silt bed. The gravels are not so much sorted, and are angular to subrounded ones. The gravels diameters are about 40cm at its maximum and one cm at the minimum one. The gravels are mainly of sandstones, mudstones and chert, with rare conglomerates and tuff. These gravels are corroded ones and the matrix is reddish brown coloured silty sand.

This Formation forms the flat terrace plain of the Kodougaoka Terrace Plain of the higher terrace plain. But this plain is very badly conserved, and every plain is separated and narrow. And this

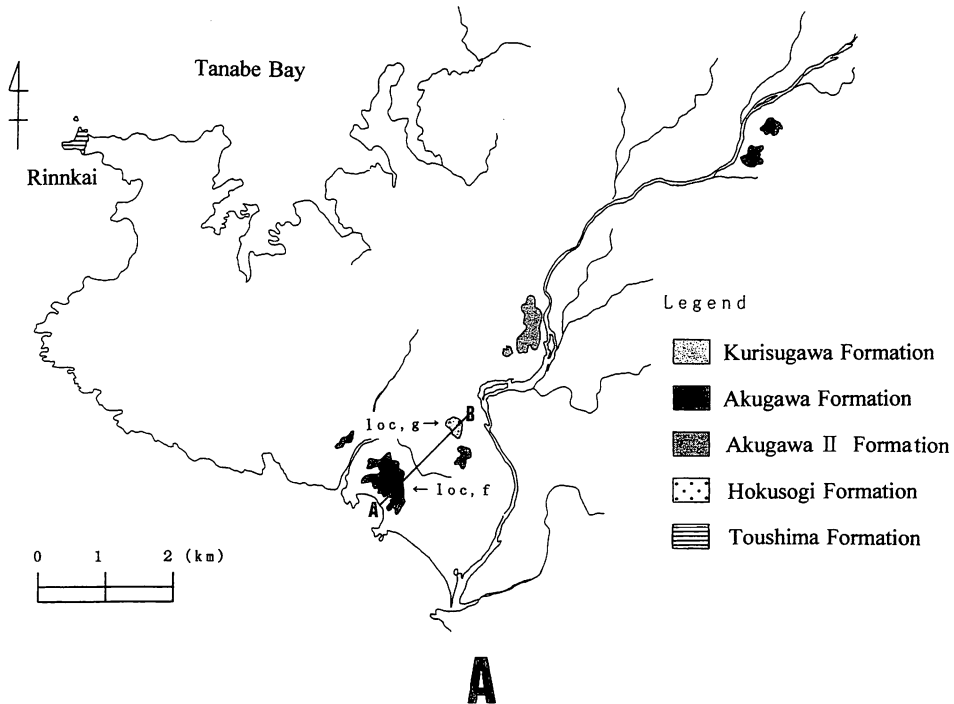


Fig. 4A. Quaternary geologic map of the down-stream area along the Tonda-gawa river and near sea coast area  
 Note that the Akugawa II Formation is the fluvial terrace, and that this forms the lower plain than that of the marine Akugawa Formation, Ak.  
 A-B, cross section in Fig.5.

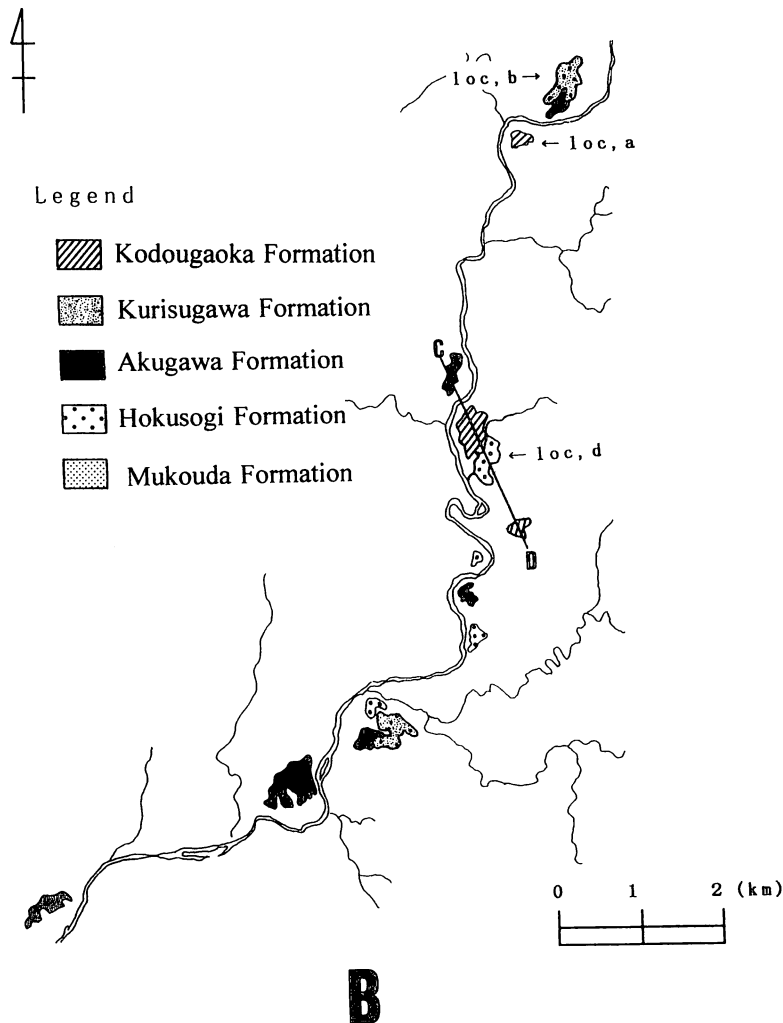


Fig. 4B. Quaternary geologic map of the mid-stream area along the Tonda-gawa river  
 On this case, the Akugawa Formation is the fluvial sediments.  
 C-D, cross section in Fig.5.

plain declines gently to the valley of the Tonda-gawa river.

### 3. Late Pleistocene

The Late Pleistocene in this surveyed area is mainly divided into two terraces deposits that are the Middle and Lower ones (Tab. 1).

#### 3-1 Middle Terrace Deposits

The Middle Terrace Deposits here are composed

of two: the Higher one is the Kurisugawa Formation (M I) and Lower one is the marine Akugawa Formation (M II).

#### 3-1-A Middle Terrace Deposit, M I

The Middle Terrace Deposit of the middle one is the Kurisugawa Formation.

Author: Kanzaki, T. and Mitusio, T. (1998)

Name: Kurisugawa Formation

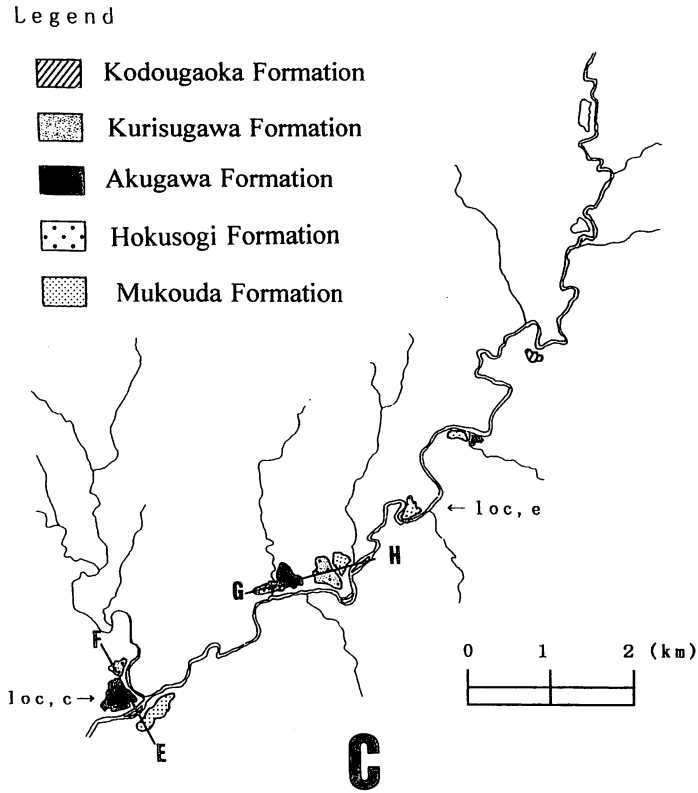


Fig. 4C. Quaternary geologic map of the upper-stream area along the Tonda-gawa river. On this case, the Akugawa Formation is also the fluvial sediments. E-F/G-H, cross sections in Fig.5.

Type locality: Kurisugawa, Nakahechi Town, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama Prefecture, loc.b

Thickness: 5-2m

Distribution height: 190-60m

Relative height from the river bottom: 60m

Topographical plain: Kurisugawa Terrace Plain = Middle Terrace Plain, MII

Distribution: This Formation distributes widely along the mid-stream to down-stream area of the Tonda-gawa river.

This is composed mainly of gravels. The gravels are sorted, and they are pebbles, the diameters of which are about one to four cm. The roundness of the gravels increases gradually as the gravels are transported along the river from the upper-stream area to the down-stream one, where the roundness at the upper-stream area is angular, and that of the down-stream area is the subrounded gravels.

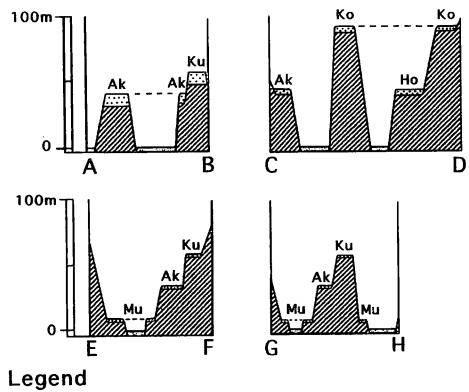


Fig. 5. Cross sections of the Quaternary System Ak, Akugawa Formation; MII Ku, Kuisugawa Formation; MI Ko, Kodougaoka Formation; H Ho, Hokusogi Formation; L Mu, Mukouda Formation; AI

The variety of the gravels is mainly of sandstones, mudstones and chert, and these are semi-corroded ones. The matrix is yellowish brown coloured silty sand.

This Formation forms the flat terrace plain of the Kurisugawa Terrace Plain of the Middle Plain MI, and this plain is well conserved. The longitudinal profile of this Formation much resembles to that of the Present Tonda river, and this plain is considerably flat and gentle.

3-1-B Middle Terrace Deposits, M II

The Middle Terrace Deposits of the lower one is the Akugawa Formation.

Author: Nakazawa *et al.* (1987); redefined by Kanzaki, T. and Mitusio, T. (1998)

Name: Akugawa Formation

Type locality: Asso-daira, Nakahechi Town, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama Prefecture, loc.c

Thickness: 5-2m

Distribution height: 210-40m

Relative height from the river bottom: 40-20m

Topographical plain: Akugawa Plain=Middle Terrace, M II

Distribution: This Formation exists continuously along the mid-stream to down-stream areas of the Tonda-gawa river.

This is composed mainly of gravels with occasionally intercalated by silt beds. The gravels are not sorted, and they are pebbles and cobbles, of which the maximum diameter is about 30cm, and the smaller one is about one cm. And the roundness of the gravels also increases gradually along from the upper-stream area to the down-stream area, alike angular to subrounded gravels. The gravels are mostly of sandstones, mudstones and chert, and these are semi-corroded ones. The matrix is also yellowish brown coloured silty sand.

This Formation has two sedimentary facies of marine and fluvial ones.

The former is found near Tanabe Bay, and it is shown as the "Akugawa Formaion" and the latter is shown as the "Akugawa II Formaion" in Fig. 4A.

This Formation forms the flat terrace plain of the Akugawa Terrace Plain of the middle plain M II, and this plain is well conserved.

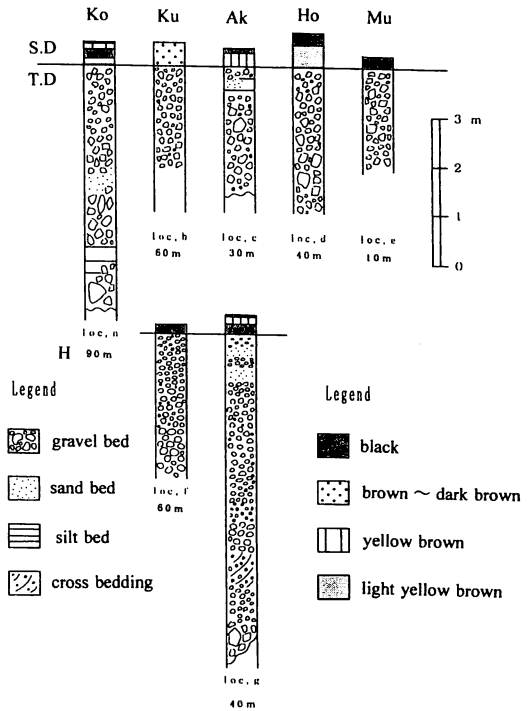


Fig. 6. Columnar sections of the Quaternary System S. D, surface deposits T. D, terrace deposits

The longitudinal profile of this Formation also much resembles to that of the Present Tonda-gawa river, and this plain is considerably flat and gentle, alike the Kurisugawa Terrace Plain of MI.

3-2 Lower Terrace Deposits, L

The Lower Terrace Deposits in the surveyed area is the Hokusogi Formation.

Author: Kanzaki, T. and Mitusio, T. (1998)

Name: Hokusogi Formation

Type locality: Hokusogi, Nakaheti Town, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama Prefecture, loc.d

Thickness: 3-2m

Distribution height: 100-50m

Relative height from the river bottom: 40-10m

Topographical plain: Hokusogi Terrace Plain= Lower Terrace Plain, L

Distribution: This Formation exists narrowly but continuously along the down-stream area of the Tonda-gawa river.

This is composed mainly of gravels. The gravels are not so well sorted, and they are pebbles and cobbles, of which the maximum diameter is about 20cm, and smaller one is about one cm. The roundness of the gravels is angular to subrounded ones. The gravels are mostly of sandstones, mudstones and chert, and these are fresh and are not weathered ones. The matrix is also yellowish brown to dark brown coloured coarse sand.

This Formation forms the flat terrace plain of the Hokusogi Terrace Plain of the Lower Plain L, and this plain is very well conserved. As for the longitudinal profile of this Formation, this declines to the down-stream area with rather steep slope, and may be buried into the Alluvial plain. Also this plain is considerably flat and gentle.

#### 4 Holocene Deposits

In this area, the Holocene Deposits is especially divided into two: the Mukouda Formation AI which forms the Holocene Terrace and the Alluvial Strata AII which forms the wide Alluvial Plain.

##### 4-1 Holocene Terrace Deposits, A I

The Holocene Terrace Deposits is the the Mukouda Formation.

Author: Kanzaki, T. and Mitusio, T. (1998)

Name: Mukouda Formation

Type locality: Mukouda, Nakaheti Town, Nishimuro-gun, Wakayama Prefecture, loc.e

Thickness: 3-2m

Distribution height: 180-120m

Relative height from the river bottom: less than 10m

Topographical plain: Mukouda Terrace Plain = Holocene Terrace Plain, A I

Distribution: This Formation exists narrowly but continuously along the upper-stream to middle-stream areas of the Tonda-gawa river.

This is also composed mainly of gravels. The gravels are not so well sorted, and they are pebbles and cobbles, of which the maximum diameter is about 20cm, and smaller one is about one cm. And the roundness of the gravels is angular to subangular one. The gravels are mostly of sand-

stones, mudstones and chert, and these are also fresh and are not weathered ones. The matrix is also yellowish brown to dark brown coloured coarse sand.

This Formation forms the flat terrace plain of the Mukouda Holocene Terrace Plain on the Alluvial Plain AI, and this plain is very well conserved. And the longitudinal profile of this Formation much resembles to that of the Present Tonda-gawa river, and this plain is also considerably flat and gentle.

##### 4-2 Holocene Alluvial Deposits

Then this made the Alluvial plains widely along the Tonda-gawa river.

However, the writers do not define this Formation, because it cannot be observed on the surface but only beneath the underground. In addition, naming makes the complicated strata names, however one of the writers, Mitusio *et al.* (1985; 1986) named the Holocene strata in Shikoku.

### Correlation of the Quaternary System

The Above-mentioned Quaternary System is to be correlated with those where they surveyed in the other areas in the Southwest Japan and north Taiwan such as follows: The peninsula areas of Muroto and Ashizuri of Kochi Prefecture and Kagawa Prefecture both in Shikoku. Akune City of Kagoshima Prefecture in Kyushu and north Taiwan.

They are shown in the correlation table of the Quaternary System. The Touda Formation of the Early Pleistocene in this area is correlatable with the Geisei Group and the Sada Group of Kochi Prefecture, and Mitoyo Group of Kagawa Prefecture both in Shikoku, and with the Akune Formation in Akune City of Kyushu. Then this Formation is also to be correlated with the Cholan Formation in north Taiwan.

The Kotogaoka Formation of the Middle Pleistocene in this area forms the Higher Terrace including corroded gravels, and is correlatable with the Formations of Kureiwa and Hiromi of both Kochi Prefecture, the Yakeotoge Formation of Kagawa Prefecture, the Higashi-Makiuchi For-



Tab. 1 Correlation table of the Quaternary System along the Tonda-gawa river and the other areas in the Southwest Japan and north Taiwan

Age			Tonda-gawa R. Kii Penin.	Muroto Shikoku	Ashizuri Shikoku	Kagawa Shikoku	Akune Kyushu	north Taiwan
QUATERNARY	Holoc.		Alluvium					
	PLEISTOCENE	LATE	Hokusogi F Akugawa F* Kurusu-gawa F	Murotsu F  Ikumi F*	Ukibuchi F  Hirano F*	Lower TD  Middle TD	Hekono F  Tada F*	Lower TD  Middle TD
		MIDDLE	Kotougaoka F**	Kureiwa F**	Hiroimi F**	Yakeotoge F**	Higashi-Makiuchi F**	Linkou F  Toukoshan F
		EARLY	Toshima F	Geisei G	Sada G	Mitoyo G	Akune F	Cholan F
TER.	PLI.	LAT.						

TER, Tertiary PLI, Pleistocene LAT, Late Holoc, Holocene R, river Penin, peninsula F, Formation G, Group TD, terrace deposits D, diposits

\*including marine sediments \*\*including corroded gravels

mation of Kyushu, and with the Formations of Toukoshan and Linkou in northTaiwan.

As for the Middle Terraces of the Late Pleistocene, two Formations of the Kurisugawa MI and the Akugawa MII including marine sediments in this area form the Middle Terrace MI and MII. MI is rather scarce, and MII is correlatable with the Formations of Ikumi and Hirano of both Kochi Prefecture, the Middle Terrace Deposits of Kagawa Prefecture, the Tada Formation of Kyushu, and the Middle Terrace Deposits in Taiwan.

The Lower Terrace Deposits of the Late Pleistocene is the Hokusogi Formation, and is correlatable with the Formations of Murotsu and Ukibuchi in both Kochi Prefecture, the Lower terrace Deposits of Kagawa Prefecture, the Bekono Formation of Kyushu, and the Lower Terrace Deposits in Taiwan.

Finally, the special Holocene Terrace Deposits of the Holocene Epoch is rare, and this is the Mukouda Formation, and is rarely correlatable with those in the other Formations. Especially, this is to be correlated with the Katsuragawa area of Tokushima Prefecture and the Monobe area of Kochi Prefecture.

### Concluding Remarks

The writers surveyed the Quaternary geology along the Tonda river of Wakayama Prefecture, southwestern part of the Kii Peninsula, and it is correlated with those areas where they have surveyed.

And the results of the survey are summarized as follows:

1) In this area, the Quaternary geology is divided into seven Formtions that are almost newly defined as follows: The Early Pleistocene of the Pre-terrace strata of the Toudshima Formation (Mitusio, Kanzaki, and Kuribayashi, 1998), and the Middle Pleistocene of the Higher terrace deposits H of the Kodougaoka Formation, and as the Late Pleistocene of the Middle terrace deposits MI of the Kurisugawa Formtion and of the same deposits MII of the marine Akugawa Formation, and also the Late Pleistocene of the Lower terrace ones L of the Hokusogi Formation. The Holocene sediments are divided into two of the Alluvial terrace deposits AI of the Mukouda Formation and the wide Alluvial Plain A II.

2) These atrata are correlated with those in the other areas of maily Shikoku and partly in Kyushu.

The interaction between the Lithosphere and Hydrosphere is to be reported on the other chance, and more daitailed Quaternary geology survey is needed.

### Acknowledgement

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\*in Japanese \*\*in Japanese with English abstract

## Appendix

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