

SILURIAN RUGOSE CORALS FROM THE GIONYAMA FORMATION, SOUTHWEST JAPAN

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Silurian and Devonian beds known as the Gionyama Formation are exposed in Gokase-cyo, Miyazaki Prefecture, Southwest Japan. Hamada (1961) divided this formation into four members, and named them G1 to G4 in ascending order. According to him, the G2 Member referred to the upper Wenlockian because it contained *Falsicatenipora shikokuensis* Noda and Hamada, and *Coronocephalus kobayashii* Hamada. The G3 member was referred to the lower Ludlovian by him based on the presence of *Schedohalysites kitakamiensis* (Sugiyama), *Zelophyllum* sp., and *Conchidium* sp. cf. *C. knighti* Sowerby. A small land slide on the southwestern slope of Gionyama (Mt. Gion) in 1998, exposed well preserved and abundant coral specimens in mudstones and limestone conglomerates of the G2 Member. The following 18 species of rugose corals, in 12 genera, are recognized: *Tryplasma* sp. A, *T.* sp. B, *T.* sp. cf. *T. hayasakai* Sugiyama, *Cystiphyllum* sp., *Holmophyllum* sp. A, *H.* sp. B, *Labechiellata regularis* Sugiyama, *Rhizophyllum* sp. A, *R.* sp. B, *Neobrachyelasma* sp., *Amplexoides* sp., *Pseudamplexus?* sp., *Amsdenoides?* sp., *Nanshanophyllum* sp. A, *N.* sp. B, *Ptychophyllum* sp. A, *P.* sp. B, uncertain type A. Among them, *Neobrachyelasma*, *Amplexoides*, *Pseudamplexus*, *Amsdenoides* *Nanshanophyllum*, and *Ptychophyllum* are reported for the first time from this member.

This is the first report of *Neobrachyelasma* sp. in Japan, which is known from South China, Mongolia and Kazakhstan. *Nanshanophyllum* has been considered as an endemic coral in China (Scrutton and Deng, 2002). Additionally, ten genera including *Nanshanophyllum* and *Neobrachyelasma* are common between the Gionyama Formation and the upper Llandovery sequence in the Ningqiang – Guangyuan depression in the northeastern part of Cathaysian Land. Thus, the co-occurrence of *Nanshanophyllum* and *Neobrachyelasma* in the Gionyama Formation is important for the paleogeographical study of the Japanese Silurian faunas.

References

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