**Latest Jurassic-earliest Cretaceous radiolarian fauna from the Xialu Chert in the Yarlung Zangbo Suture Zone, Southern Tibet: Comparison with coeval western Pacific radiolarian faunas and paleoceanographic implications**

Atsushi Matsuoka†*, Qun Yang§ and Masahiko Takei§

† Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, Niigata University, Niigata 950-2181, JAPAN
‡ Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, Academia Sinica, Nanjing 210008, CHINA
§ Graduate School, Niigata University, Niigata 950-2181, JAPAN

* To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: matsuoka@geo.sc.niigata-u.ac.jp

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Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous radiolarian faunas have been reported recently from pelagic sediments in the Yarlung Zangbo Suture Zone, southern Tibet (Matsuoka et al. 2001, 2002; Wang et al. 2002, Ziabrev et al. 2004). These micropaleontological data can contribute not only to geotectonic history but also to paleoceanographic reconstruction. The Xialu Chert is distributed in the south of Xigaze along the southern margin of the Yarlung Zangbo Suture Zone and represents deep marine sediments between the Indian Block and Lhasa Block. This paper presents a full assemblage of a latest Jurassic (Tithonian)-earliest Cretaceous (Berriasian) fauna of the Xialu Chert and compares it with coeval radiolarian faunas in the western Pacific regions. This paper discusses the depositional site of the Xialu Chert from a paleobiogeographic point of view.

KR 1 radiolarian fauna in the Xialu Chert (Xialu fauna) is composed of about 100 species. Abundant species include Cinguloturris cyindra Kemkin and Rudenko, Emiluvia chica Foreman, Eucyrtidiellum pyramis (Alta), Loopus nuda (Schaaf), Pseudodictyomitra carptica (Lozyniak), Sthecopsis (?) subcrassitestata Aita, Sethocapsa (?) ritteni (Tan), Stichocapsa praepulchella Hor, Swinitzium pseudopoga Dumitrca, Tethysetta d Hinenaens (Baumgartner), Tethysetta usotanensis (Tumanda), and Tethysetta boesi (Parona). Dominant genera include Archaeodictyomitra, Hemicyrtocapsa, Xitus, and Zhamoidellum. The genera Miriusus, Podobursa, Podocapsa, Ristola, and Syringocapsa are rare. The Vallupus group is absent and Pantandium is not common.

Northern hemisphere Middle-latitude coeval radiolarian faunas are found in the Torinosu Group and its equivalent formations in Southwest Japan. Common species between the Xialu and Torinosu faunas are Eucyrtidiellum pyramis (Alta), Protunuma japonicus Matsuoka and YO, Sthecopsis (?) subcrassitestata Aita, and Solenotryma (?) ichikawai Matsuoka and YO. They were originally described as new species from the Torinosu Group. Other common species include Cinguloturris cyindra Kemkin and Rudenko, Emiluvia chica Foreman, Loopus nuda (Schaaf), Pseudodictyomitra carptica (Lozyniak), Swinitzium pseudopoga Dumitrca, Tethysetta boesi (Parona), and Tethysetta d Hinenaens (Baumgartner).

A low-latitude earliest Cretaceous (Berriasian) fauna was reported in a rock sample from the Mariana Trench. The Mariana fauna contains about 400 species and represents the most diversified radiolarian fauna among the Berriasian radiolarian faunas in the world. Dominant genera are Archaeodictyomitra, Hemicyrtocapsa, Loopus, Napor, Neorlumbma, Obecacapsula, Podobursa, Praecaneta, Pseudodictyomitra, Saitoum, Sthecopsis, Swinitzium, Tethysetta, Williirdiellum, Xitus, and Zhamoidellum. One of the distinctive features of the Mariana fauna is to contain abundant pantanellid taxa including the Vallupus group. In spite of diversified nature of the Mariana fauna, species belonging to the genus Eucyrtidiellum, common both in the Xialu and Torinosu faunas, have not been found so far. The genera Cinguloturris, Miriusus, Ristola, and Solenotryma are rare.

The faunal comparison among southern Tibet and western Pacific regions revealed that the Xialu fauna is similar to northern hemisphere middle-latitude assemblages represented by the Torinosu fauna. On the other hand, the Xialu fauna is less similar to low-latitude (tropical) assemblages represented by the Mariana fauna. This indicates that the Xialu fauna is regarded as a representative of southern hemisphere middle-latitude faunas. The depositional site of the Xialu Chert in the KR 1 time was out side of the Vallupus Territory (Matsuoka 1995b) which is a tropical radiolarian realm in the Late Jurassic-earliest Cretaceous time. A mirror-image provincialism to the equator in radiolarian faunas is reconstructed for the Tethys-Pacific Ocean in the latest Jurassic-earliest Cretaceous time.

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**References**


