
Fossil Elephant Study of Nobuo Naora and Examination Results of Fossil Elephant Specimens in Naora Collection

TAKAHASHI Keiichi

Fossil elephant study by Dr. Nobuo Naora and his examination results of fossil elephant specimens and photographs in the Naora Collection, stored in The National Museum of Japanese History, Waseda University Honjo Senior High School, and School of Education, Waseda University, are summarized in this paper. Dr. Naora has published some monographs such as 'Nihon honyu dobutsumi (History of Japanese mammal)', but none in scientific journals. However, his autographic descriptions of 212 specimens in unpublished manuscript, 'Nihonsan chobirui kaseki (Japanese fossil proboscideans)' in The Naora Collection shows that he had studied fossil elephants in detail.

Besides a relatively well-preserved skull of *Stegodon aurorae* in the Naora Collection, which is stored at Waseda University, was briefly described, and photographs of some specimens including complete mandible of *Palaeoloxodon naumanni*, the specimen have been burned out by the Second World War, show some additional morphological characteristics of the mandible including to us including the ramus, which has yet been unknown until now. The characteristics are as follows: The mandibular ramus run almost straight to dorsal in anterior view; the anterior margin of the ramus is straight; the base of ramus is relatively wide in lateral view; the anterior margin of the ramus located slightly less than halfway the length of the mandibular body from the anterior; the angle of ramus to body is approximately 90°; the articular surfaces of condyles are elongated in lateralmedially and slopes down and medially.

Key words: Nobuo Naora, elephant fossil, Naora Collection, *Palaeoloxodon naumanni*, mandible