Analysis of the Composition of Stone Implements from the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa

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In the Jomon Era, the living or inhabitation style gradually changed from the nomadic life style in the upper Paleolithic Age to the semisedentary or sedentary life style. On the other hand, there are some remains, such as the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa located on a plateau in the Shikoku Mountains that appear not to have been used as a settlement place to live because of the small amount of remains and the narrowness of the rock shelter. So, in order to clarify concretely what actual life in the Rock Shelter of the Kamikuroiwa was like and the characteristics of the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa in the formation of semisedentary colonies and sedentary colonies, the unearthed stone implements and the compositions of the materials of stone implements were studied. So far, in the identification of settlement colonies, attention has been focused on the increase of mill stones and hammer stones and the presence of pit dwellings and soil pits. Differently from the nomadic communities and colonies in the Paleolithic Age where people didn't have fixed dwellings or colonies to settle in, the distribution of materials, typified by salt, jade, polished stone axes and obsidian between remote locations was active and stabilized in sedentary society. From this perspective, the ratio of stone materials from remote areas at the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa and the surrounding remains was obtained.

As a result of the study of the composition of stone materials, it was found that starting at around the 6th layer of the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa at the latest, the use of stone materials from remote areas for stone implements increased, and after that, stone materials that were presumed to have been produced in remote areas were stably imported to the remains in the Kuma Kogen region and around the plains through the Jomon Era. Accordingly, it is presumed that sedentary society started after the 6th layer of the Rock Shelter of Kamikuroiwa and the phase before the 6th layer was at the semisedentary stage.

Key words: stone implements/composition of stone materials, semisedentary/sedentary, short-term camping, means of livelihood