We clarified the management of Castanea crenata and Toxicodenron vernicifluum resources at the Shimo-yakebe site, Tokyo, from excavated wood remains. At this site, an analysis of diameter and growth rings of these species indicated, differing from the present management, an existence of heterogenous forests consisting of trees with diverse size and age. In this paper, to clarify the forest management during the Jomon period, growth trends in both species were compared with those of extant trees. In both species, trees less than 6–8 cm in diameter and 8 years in age were mainly used entirely, but logs of larger trees were also used as split timber for various uses. Trees of the other taxa were either used entirely or as split wood depending on the taxa. Among Toxicodenron vernicifluum trees, no correlation existed between the existence of scars left by putative lacquer collection on the stem surface and their use. Toxicodenron vernicifluum trees at the Shimo-yakabe site grew as fast as Castanea crenata trees, but more slowly than extant trees that are planted with ample space in between to allow fast growth till the collection of lacquer in 10 to 15 years. Trees of Toxicodenron vernicifluum and Castanea crenata at the Shimo-yakabe site grew more slowly than Castanea crenata trees used for pillars at the Aota site, Niigata, but as fast as the present secondary growth of Castanea crenata trees from stem sprouts in Aomori. A growth analysis at the Shimo-yakabe site revealed that these Toxicodenron vernicifluum and Castanea crenata forests were surrounded by a more slowly growing, secondary forest and a slowest growing, virgin forest.

Key words: Castanea crenata, forest resources, Jomon period, management, Toxicodendron vernicifluum