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GEOLOGIC RELATION BETWEEN HYDROTHERMALLY ALTERED VOLCANIC ROCKS AND GRANITIC ROCKS IN NOMA PENINSULA, KAGOSHIMA PREFECTURE

By

Masahiko Yamamoto*, Katsutoshi Tomita*, and Noboru Oba*

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Abstract

The Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks of middle Miocene age intrude the Older Volcanics, correlated with so-called "Green Tuff", in Noma Peninsula of Kagoshima Prefecture. This fact indicates that the Miocene volcanism took place in the south region as well as in the north region of Kagoshima Prefecture.

Introduction

Hydrothermally altered volcanic rocks composed of propylite and associated "green tuff" are sparsely distributed in South Kyushu, and constitute country rocks of hydrothermal vein-type deposits in some mining districts. The geologic relation between granitic intrusives, which sporadically occur in South Kyushu, of 12-16 m.y. before present in age determined by the K-Ar method (Nozawa, 1968; Shibata, 1978) and the volcanic rocks has not been settled. In this paper, the field relation between the volcanic rocks and the granitic intrusives in Noma Peninsula, Kagoshima Prefecture, and its geological meaning will be discussed.

Field Relations

The surveyed area is located in the southern coast of Noma Peninsula, and geology of Noma Peninsula has been studied by Yamamoto et al. (1969). The Shimanto Group, the Older Volcanics, the Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks and the Younger Volcanics in ascending order are the main geologic constituents. Geologic map of the surveyed area is shown in Fig. 1, and geologic succession is listed in Table 1.

The Shimanto Group, distributed in the western part of the surveyed area, consists of alternation of sandstone and shale, and strikes N70°E and dips 60°N in general.

The Older Volcanics, which occur along the seacoast of the area, consist of hydrothermally altered andesite, agglomerate and tuff breccia. The rocks of the Shimanto Group are unconformably overlain by them.

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The Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks occur in the western part of the area, and intrude both the Shimanto Group and the Older Volcanics (Fig. 2). The rocks are mainly composed of granite porphyry and liparite. Mafic minerals of the rocks are chloritized (YAMAMOTO et al., 1969; YAMAMOTO et al., 1970).

The Younger Volcanics, distributed in the highlands of the area, are largely composed of tuff breccia accompanied by andesitic lava, agglomerate, conglomerate,
tuffaceous sandstone and siltstone, and are hydrothermally altered in part. The rocks of the Shimanto Group, the Older Volcanics and the Satsuma Peninsula intrusives are unconformably overlain by those of the Younger Volcanics.

Discussion

The presence of propylite and “green tuff” in the southwestern part of Kagoshima Prefecture has been estimated by Miyahisa and Matsumoto (1969). It was made clear newly in the process of this study that the Older Volcanics composed mainly of propylite are intruded by the Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks of middle Miocene age, determined by the K-Ar method to be 12 m.y. before present (Shibata and Nozawa, 1968). This fact is in good accordance with the following geologic evidences of propylite and “green tuff” in the north region of Kagoshima Prefecture: (1) Molluscan fossils (e.g., Patinopecten kimurai) of Miocene age was collected from the “green tuff” of Kushikino Mine (Fukuyama, 1954); (2) Fission track dating for the Yamano Rhyolite which lies on propylite in Okuchi district indicates middle Miocene (13-14.7 m.y.) in age (Matsumoto et al., 1977; Miyahisa et al., 1978); and (3) Semiquantitative fission track dating for the Hokusatsu Older andesitic rocks which are hydrothermally altered indicates Miocene in age (Miyahisa et al., 1978).

These geologic evidences suggest that the Older Volcanics in the surveyed area can be correlated with propylite and associated “green tuff” in the north region of Kagoshima Prefecture, and that the Miocene volcanic activity did not take place only in the north region but also in the south region of Kagoshima Prefecture. It is also considered that both propylite and “green tuff” in South Kyushu can be correlated with those of the Nishikurosawa Stage or the Daijima Stage in the Green Tuff province of Northeast Japan.

The Nansatsu Group (Kawano et al., 1969), probably, of Pliocene to Pleistocene in age is developed in Makurazaki district southeast of Noma Peninsula, and constitutes country rocks of hydrothermal vein-type deposits in Kasuga, Iwato and Akeshi Mines. The rocks of the lower member of the Nansatsu Group are mainly composed of
hydrothermally altered andesite, and those of the upper member of the Group are
mainly composed of "green tuff" and tuff breccia. The Older Volcanics in the
surveyed area is lithologically similar to the rocks of the lower member of the Nansatsu
Group. Judging from the fact that granitic pebbles were discovered from the basal
conglomerate of the lower member, however, it is suggested that the formation of the
Older Volcanics was made before the Nansatsu Group. On the other hand, it is
considered that the Younger Volcanics can lithologically be correlated with the rocks
of the upper member of the Nansatsu Group.

Thus, it can be said that both the Older Volcanics and the Younger Volcanics
were subjected to hydrothermal alteration. Therefore, it is considered that chloritiza-
tion seen in mafic minerals of the Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks, reported by
Yamamoto et al. (1969) and Yamamoto et al. (1970), is closely related to the hydrothermal
alteration. The facts that the Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks are composed of
granite porphyry and liparite and that the formation of the Satsuma Peninsula granitic
rocks is chronologically contemporaneous with that of the Yamano Rhyolite suggest
that there was volcano-plutonism in the granitic intrusives of 12–16 m.y. in age in
South Kyushu as well as Tertiary granitic rocks in the Green Tuff province reported by
Orimoto (1965).

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Geologic Relation between Hydrothermally Altered Volcanic Rocks and Granitic Rocks


Noma Peninsula 野間半島
Kushikino 串木野
Okuchi 大口
Makurazaki 瑞崎
Kasuga 春日
Iwato 岩戸
Akeshi 赤石
Goto 後藤
Goto-bana 後藤鼻

Satsuma Peninsula granitic rocks 薩摩半島花崗岩質岩類
Yamano Rhyolite 山野流紋岩
Hokusatsu Older andesitic rocks 北薩古期安山岩類