

Cruise summary NT10-07 Leg 1

1. Cruise Information

Cruise number: NT10-07 Leg1

Ship name: R/V Natsushima (海洋調査船「なつしま」)

Submersible: ROV Hyper-Dolphin (無人探査機「ハイパードルフィン」)

Title of the cruise: Colonization patterns of biogenic substrates at different depths.
(生物基質上に形成される生物群集に水深が与える影響の解明)

Chief Scientist: Florence PRADILLON (JAMSTEC)

Proposal numbers and titles:

S10-86 : Influence of depth on colonization of biogenic substrates by deep-sea fauna
(ベンツスの生物基質への蜡集に水深が与える影響) (F. Pradillon)

S10-74: Investigation of the food web structure of deep-sea benthic community
associated with sunken wood (深海域における沈木生物群集の食物網構造の解
明) (Y. Shirayama)

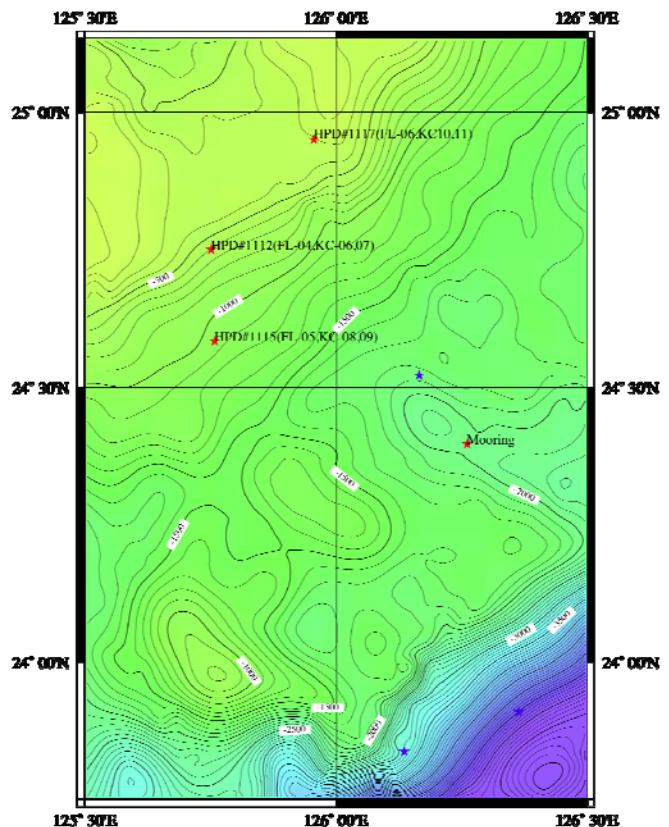
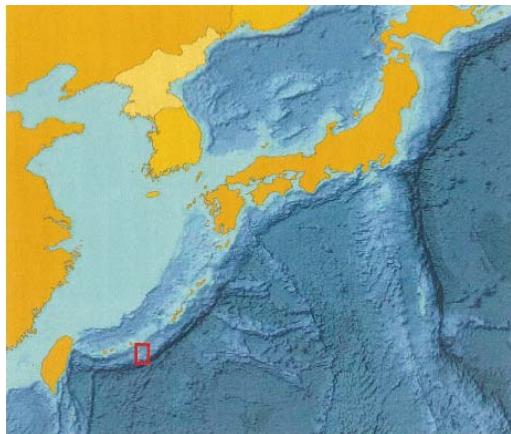
Cruise period: April 20, 2010 – May 1, 2010

Port call: April 20 Departure from Naha 那覇出港

April 30 Arrival at Kagoshima 鹿児島入港

Research Area: Nansei Shoto Trench, Okinawa (南西諸島海溝), within the area
located between the following coordinates: 23°45.0'N - 125°40.0'E and
25°00.0'N - 126°30.0'E. Depth: 275m – 2997m.

Research area and diving points (indicated by red stars) (赤☆印潜航地点)



2. Overview of observations

This cruise is part of a project that began in June 2008 (cruise NT08-12). The main goal is to investigate how colonization and degradation of biogenic substrates (mammal bones and wood) on the seafloor may vary with depth. This will allow us to better evaluate substrates persistence time interval, and their role in the evolution of chemosynthesis-based fauna. Two complementary projects are conducted in parallel at the same investigation sites. In the first project (led by Y. Fujiwara, JAMSTEC), biodiversity and degradation rates are investigated on mammal bones (initially whale vertebrae, later completed with cow and pig bones) and wood logs (Keyaki) deployed at different depths. The second project (led by Y. Shirayama, Kyoto University) looks at the food-web structure and succession of the communities colonizing different species of plants.

The study area is located in the Nansei Shoto Trench, east of the Okinawa Trough in the Western Pacific. Substrates were deployed in 2008 and 2009, at 6 sites along a depth gradient ranging from 275 m depth to 5000 m depth.

During the NT10-07 leg 1 cruise, we conducted 8 Hyper-Dolphin dives during which we observed substrates at 3 sites (275 m, 500 m and 1000 m). Some of them were recovered. Sediment, water, plankton and benthos sampling as well as *in situ* chemical measurements of the sulphide release by the substrates were also conducted at each site. In addition, we deployed fresh substrates in order to renew those retrieved or lost.

The substrates collected during the cruise NT10-07 leg 1 cruise showed that degradation rates of vegetal biogenic substrates were negatively correlated with depth. Substrates at shallower sites decayed much more quickly as a result of a much faster colonization. However, variation in species composition and density was observed depending on the nature of the substrate. For bones, no such trend was identified. Indeed, shallowest bones were found intact whereas those from deeper areas were colonized.

In order to evaluate whether larval stages have the ability to migrate upwards, we deployed some substrates in the water column at 1000 meters depth. The results of this experiment will be compared with that of substrates deployed at similar depth on the bottom.

本研究の目的は異なる深度に設置した生物基質（動物の骨や木材）にどのような生物群集が形成されるかを深度間、基質間で比較することであり、2008年に実施したNT08-12航海からの継続である。本研究によって、生物基質がどのくらいの期間海底で生物群集を維持するのかを把握するとともに、また化学合成生物群集の進化における生物基質の役割を評価できる。この航海では二つの実験が同時進行している。一つは動物の骨（鯨骨、牛骨、豚骨）を基質とする生物群集の研究であり、生物多様性や基質の分解速度の深度別比較を主体とする。もう一つは植物（丸太、ココナツなど）を基質とする生物群集の研究であり、こちらは主に形成された生物群集の食物網や遷移を明らかにすることを目的にしている。

海域は南西諸島海溝で、2008年と2009年に水深275mから5000mの間で6つの異なる水深に基質を設置した。

NT10-07 レグ1航海では3サイト（275, 500, 1000mサイト）で「ハイパードルフィン」による潜航を8回実施した。過去に設置したいくつかの基質を回収するとともに堆積物、周辺海水、プランクトンおよびベントスを採集した。また各地点で硫化物濃度などの化学計測を行った。また新たにいくつかの基質を海底設置した。回収した植物基質の分解速度は概ね深度に依存しており、浅海域ほど分解が早かった。生物群集の構成と生物密度の変動は使用した基質の特性に依存していた。一方、鯨骨には類似した傾向はなく、最も浅海に設置した鯨骨は生物による分解が少なく、ほぼ無傷に近い状態であった。

また動物遺骸に聚集する生物の分散過程を明らかにするために、水深1000m付近に新たなコロニゼーションデバイスを設置した。