

Paleolithic

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For 20 years after the “Japanese paleolithic forgery scandal” was exposed in 2000, Japanese paleolithic research has pushed forward on interdisciplinary research in cooperation with related sciences such as chronometry, geology, and anthropology under the policy of the Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association founded in 2003. We have also presented abundant data and analytical findings about paleolithic times in Japan to the world through international journals and in international scholarly forums. This paper presents the trends in Japanese paleolithic research in 2019 in four research areas that have made steady steps forward after the forgery scandal: (1) modern human dispersal to the Japanese archipelago *via* the Korean Peninsula route during the MIS 4 to *ca.* 38,000 years ago period and the Okinawa route during the 40,000–30,000 years ago period, and the processes of their adaptation to regional environments in the Early Upper Paleolithic (*ca.* 38,000–30,000 years ago), (2) the Paleolithic-Neolithic transition (*ca.* 15,000–11,500 years ago), which is characterized by the transformation from mobile hunter-gatherer groups into sedentary communities, while the existence of Ice Age pottery is inconsistent with claims that directly link climatic warming with sedentism and the development of ceramics, (3) human behavioral studies based on traceology, and (4) regional studies of site formation processes, chronology of assemblages, lithic technology, exploitation and circulation of lithic raw materials, and so on.

(written by the author)

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