

Regular talk

PALEOCENE WOOD-FALL COMMUNITIES FROM HOKKAIDO, JAPAN

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Fossilized wood is common in Paleocene deep-water deposits of the Katsuhira Formation in eastern Hokkaido, Japan, and is often bored by wood-boring bivalves and associated with other invertebrates. We recovered 42 such associations, which are preserved in small carbonate concretions within dark gray mudstones. The associations consist of many small mollusks, corals and brachiopods. Most common are deposit feeders such as the aporrhaid gastropod *Kangilia inouei* and protobranch bivalves. Several associations included chemosymbiotic bivalves, namely *Thyasira* sp. and the lucinid *Myrtea ezoensis*, as well as pectinodontid limpets which are known to feed on wood. Minor faunal elements are the deep-sea suspension feeders *Bentharca* and *Propeamussium*, and predators and scavengers like naticids, buccinid, cancellariid, turrid, cylichnid and ringiculid gastropods. These Paleocene wood-fall communities resemble those from Upper Cretaceous strata in Hokkaido, Japan and from Eocene to Oligocene strata in Washington State, USA by sharing nuculanid bivalves, *Thyasira* and limpets. Interestingly, provannid gastropods are absent from the Paleocene communities, despite their presence in the above mentioned older and younger examples. The small bathymodiolin mussel *Idas* has also not been found in the Paleocene communities reported here.

