

KUROSEGAWA BELT AS A TRANSFORM FAULT ZONE IN SOUTHWEST JAPAN

KIYOSHI KATO and YUKIYASU SAKA Dep. Earth Sci., Sch. Educ., Waseda Univ., Tokyo, Japan

The Kurosegawa Belt intervening in the Chichibu Terrane consisting of the Jurassic-Early Cretaceous accretionary complex along the Pacific side of the southwestern Japanese Islands represents a serpentinite melange. It is characterized by various kinds of exotic rocks including granitoids, metamorphic rocks of different metamorphic degrees, Siluro-Devonian sediments. In the central Kii Peninsula of middle Southwest Japan where the deepest erosion level is exposed on the ground surface due to the neotectonic uplift, the Kurosegawa Belt has not so far been known to exist. This leads to an interpretation that the Belt constituting a klippe-like tectonic outlier of the pre-Jurassic accretionary complexes has been eroded out to disappear. We found some exotic rocks characteristic of the Kurosegawa Belt in this area and revealed the Kurosegawa Belt runs longitudinally through the axial part of the Chichibu Terrane. These facts support our newly proposed model that the Kurosegawa Belt is a transform fault zone originated by the ridge subduction in the late Early Cretaceous time. This model has the advantage of previous ones in explaining, 1) essentially linear occurrence of exotic rocks in a narrow Jurassic-Early Cretaceous accretionary terrane, 2) branching off and joining of arrays of lenticular bodies of exotic rocks, 3) formation of flower structures and strike-slip basins in and/or along the Belt, 4) intrusion of plutons synchronous with the emergence of a high-P/T schist belt both immediately on the continental side of the Chichibu Terrane.