

'I am sorry to wake you up. I did not mean to wake you up. When and why were you trapped in earthenware? It is okay if you tell me just that'.



A scene from the investigations

All the images displayed here are 3D rendering of creatures derived from prehistoric pottery in Japan, which were detected using an X-ray equipment.

Preface

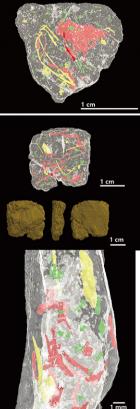
In pottery, there often are small plants, insects, shellfish, and other creatures that existed around the potters themselves. Occasionally, they appear on the surface of earthenware and are called 'impressions', but they are originally, creatures mixed into the clay. A typical example is the impression created by rice husks. Archaeologists in Japan have long focused on the impressions of rice husks on the surface of pottery when investigating the beginning and diffusion time of rice farming. In addition to rice husk impressions, spiders, mites, and other insects were also found on pottery surfaces. In Japan, such impressions attracted public attention around the 1980s, when Tsuyoshi Ushino practised the 'replication method' of moulding impressions using silicone rubber and changing the imprint into a positive cast. This is more reliable than the conventional method. Afterwards, Michhiko Nakazawa used the replication method to verify rice busk impressions nationwide. In the 2000s, Sumio Yamasaki, who was also interested in the origin of rice cultivation, started a comprehensive survey of the Jomon pottery to discover rice and maize weevils. This marks the beginning of a modern method for surveying earthenware. A comprehensive survey of pottery using this method led to the 2007 discovery of soybeans in the Jomon period.

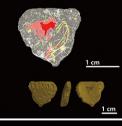
Starting in 2011, we utilized X-ray imaging equipment, such as soft X-ray devices and X-ray CT scanners, to investigate earthenware impressions, search for organic inclusions embedded in earthenware fabric, and construct three-dimensional (3D) images. We then investigated the exact number of perilla in pottery that contain numerous perilla impressions. We also found unexposed impressions in pottery that left no traces on the pottery surface. Since the start of this pottery impression survey, we have searched for unexposed impressions using a soft X-ray device.

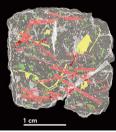
This book describes the detection and examination of organic inclusions, especially fossils, such as seeds and insects, inside eartherware walls using X-ray equipment. The seeds and insects found in pottery reveal new discoveries that archaeologists, who are engrossed with pottery patterns and shapes, have been unaware of. These include lifestyle and food in the era, and the potters' thoughts on such organic inclusions.

Please enjoy the world inside pottery.

OBATA, Hiroki



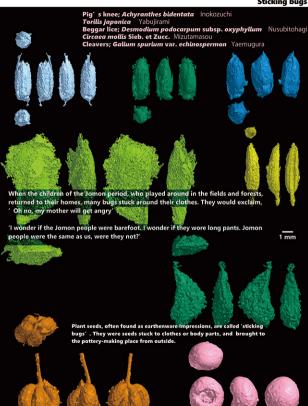




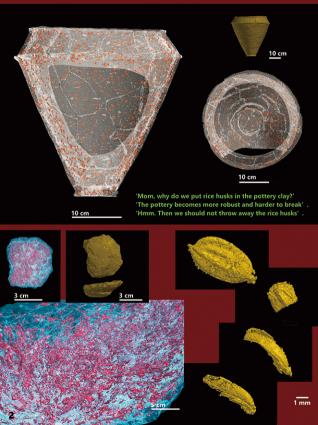
'Go outside and take the stalks of the grass'.
'Yes, mom, but for what purpose?'
'I will mix them into the clay'.

The fragments of fibres and rice husk kneaded into earthenware clay are not easily visible from the surface of pottery. However, they play an important role in making them. The practice of mixing silica-rich plants into clay is a traditional technique typically inherited from the mother.

This tradition dates to ca. 16,500 BP when pottery started in the Japanese archipelago.



Rice husk Inemoni



Grains (Rice, Foxtail millet, Common millet)

Ine, Awa, Kibi

Oryza sativa, Setaria italica, Panicum miliaceum

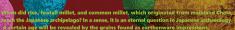


'We harvested a lot this year as well.

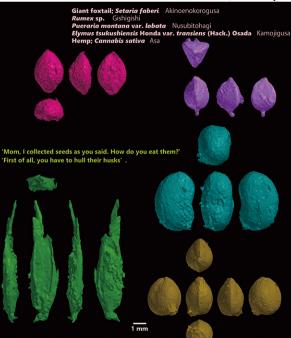
Since I was young, we collected all the seeds as autumn arrived.

My father said that the seeds had come from far away, from the other side of the sea. They are essential in our lives.

You cannot eat them all. We will sow the rest in the field when spring arrives again.







Wild grass seeds that are found as earthenware impressions are unlikely to have entered houses accidentally, in some cases, many wild grass seeds were present in the pottery clay. Therefore, it appears that they were intentionally collected and brought to the house. These tiny wild grass seeds from archaeological soils were previously not considered to be edible. However, their discovery, as the impressions in earthenware suggest, included them in the human diet.

It seems that hemp was also used for food and fibre. Carbonized seeds were found at the Okinoshima site in Chiba Prefecture about 10,000 years ago, making it the oldest perilla seeds in Japan. Although rare as an impression of earthenware, a vessel mixed with more than 1,000 seeds has been found in a site of the Zokujomon culture (ca. 1,600 BP) in Hokkaldo.



Mulberry: Morus bombycis Yamaguwa Broussonetia sp. Kouzo Japanese red elder: Sambucus sieboldiana Niwatoko Vitis sp. Budou

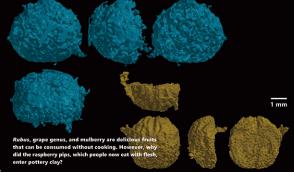
Ampelopsis sp. Nobudou Ehretia ovalifolia Chishanoki

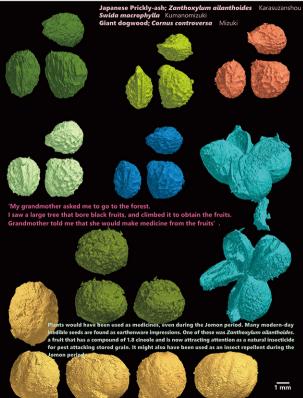


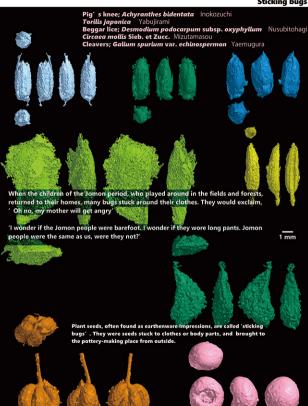


The old owl living in the forest taught me:

The fruits of the raspberry have grown in the edge of the forest again this year. When the sun rises tomorrow, let us go and get them together'.

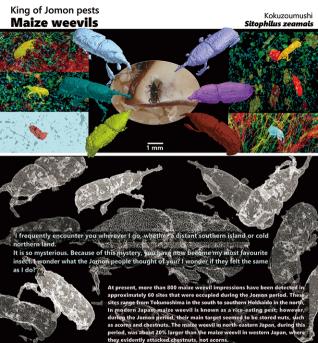


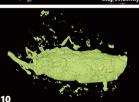


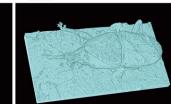


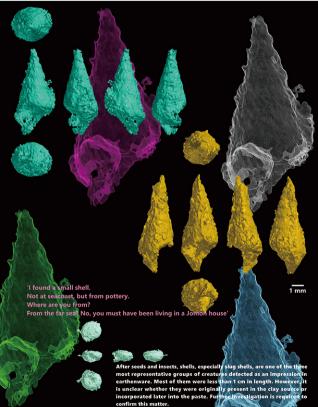
The insects that came into Jomon houses Mushi Insects and small animals Twisted-wingh parasites; Strepsiptera Ari, Hachi Beetles: Coleoptera Kouchu Wood louse: Armadilloidea Dangomushi Millipede; Diplopoda Yasude Fly: 'It smells delicious' . Longhorn beetle: 'The house is old, so there may be defisious rotten timb Woodlouse: 'It is easy to live in because there are various gaping spaces Spider: 'There are many delicious insects so I will make a trap here.

Insects are also representatives of the organisms found as earthenware impressions. These may be files, cockroaches, skin beetles, and Aphodius. Most insects live in people's homes, however, there may also be mites that come into the house from being stuck to the bodies of humans and animals.

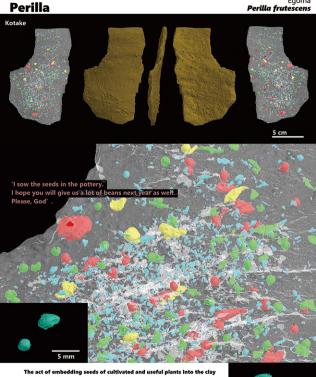








The world of earthenware mixed with many seeds and insects: Jomon people with prayers for a good harvest



used for earthenware began in the early Jomon period. The seeds are not expected to have a visible decorative effect or act as a tempering agent that makes earthenware almost unbreakable. Instead, this act is thought to be equivalent to praying for a good harvest.

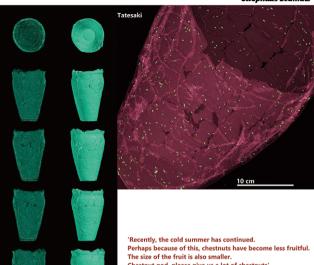


Egoma

Maize weevils from Hokkaido

10 cm

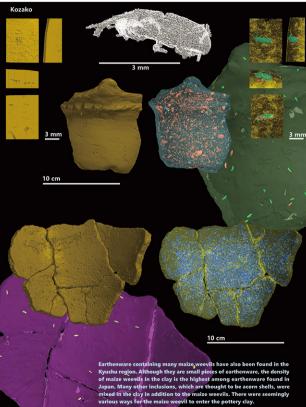
Kokuzoumushi Sitophilus zeamais



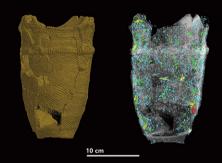
Chestnut god, please give us a lot of chestnuts'.



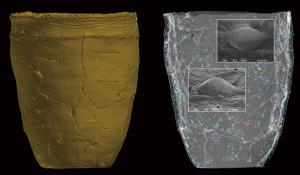
3 mm



Tatesaki



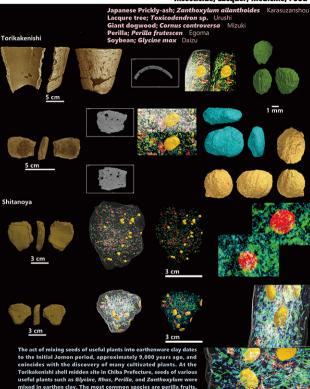
The genus Echinochloa has been a part of the diet in the southern part of Hokkaido and the northern part of the Tohoku region since approximately 8,000 years ago. It is regarded as a plant cultivated by the Jomon people. Pottery, with the impression of these seeds, eloquently demonstrates their consumption of barnyard grass seeds.



Cultivated or useful plants

soybeans and adzuki beans. Additionally, earthenware containing many seeds of the Amur cork tree and Japanese red elder have been

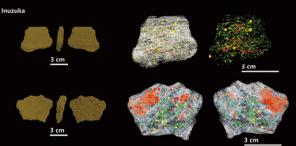
Insecticide, Lacquer, Medicine, Food



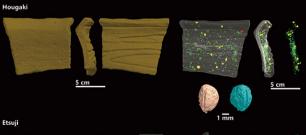
discovered.

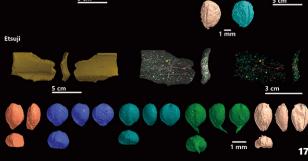
Perilla; Perilla frutescen Egoma Japanese Prickly-ash; Zanthoxylum ailanthoides Foxtail millet; Setaria italica Awa

Karasuzanshou

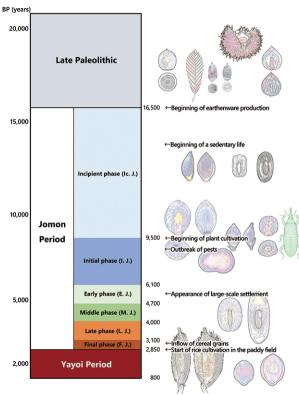




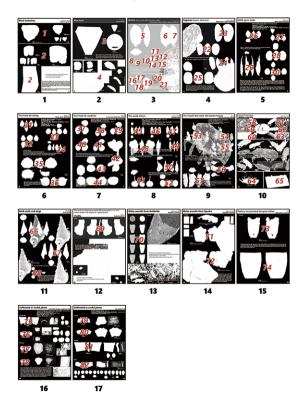




Chronology of Prehistoric Japaneas events



Numbers in the images of impressions



Types and excavated sites of impressions and pottery

açe	No.	English name	Species of inclusions	Japanese name	Site name	Town, City	Prefecture	Dra, phase	Age	Registrated
	1	Potsherd with fibre	Unnown specces		Fukui Cave	Sasebo City	Nagasaki	le.J.	ca. 15000 8P	FXI 0663
•	2	Potsherd with fibre	Unnown specces		Fukui Cave	Sacebo City	Nagasaki	So. J.	ca. 15000 BP	FIXI 0223
2	3	Vessel with rice husk	Oryza sativa	ine	Edzuko	Kumamoto City	Kumamoto	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	E2X 001
•	4	Potsherd with rice husk	Oryza sativa	Inemomi	Uchihashi Taubomi	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	M.Y.	ca. 2000 BP	UHT 00
	5	Rice	Oryza sativa	Ine	Kozako	Shibushi City	Kagoshima	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	KZX 500
	6	Rice	Oryza sativa	Ine	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-3
	7	Rice	Oryza sativa	Ine	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-0
	8	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ame	Etropi	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F. J.	ca. 2800 SP	ER\$410
	9	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-
	10	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ER\$410
	11	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	tkawadzu s. m.	Tahara City	Aichi	E. J.	ca, 2500 SP	IKZ 0001
	12	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F. J.	ca. 2800 BP	ERS4 10
3	13	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Amp	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saca	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-0
	14	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-
	15	Fortal milet	Setaria italica	Ama	Davi	Kasuya-mashi	Fukuoka	E.J.	ca. 2800 SP	ERS4 10
	16	Common millet	Panicum miliaceum	KN	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-
	17	Common millet	Panicum milaceum	KN	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	CA. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-
	18	Common milet	Panicum milaceum	KN	Higashihatase 1	Saga City Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	MOST-1T-4
				KN					CA. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-
	19	Common millet	Panicum miliaceum Panicum miliaceum	1000	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.		HHT-1T-0
	20	Common millet		Кы	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	
	21	Common millet	Panicum millaceum	KN	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T
	22	Soybean seed	Glycine max	Daizu	Motonobaru	Miyazaki City	Miyazaki	LJ.	ca. 4000 BP	MN8 01
	23	Saybean cotyledon	Olycine max	Daizu	Yakushoden	Ebino City	Miyazaki	L.J.	ca. 3600 BP	YSD 000
	24	Adzuki bean ootyledon	Vigna angularis	Adzuki	Motonobaru	Miyazaki City	Miyazaki	F.J.	ca. 3000 BP	MNB 04
	25	Adzuki bean seed	Vigna angularis	Adzuki	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T
	26	Giant fortall	Setaria faberi	Akinoenokorogusa	Alhara 1	Miyakonojou City	Miyazaki	LJ.	ca. 10000 SP	AHR
	27		Aumer sp.	Gishigishi	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 SP	ERS4 01
s	28		Pueraria montana var. Jobata	Kuzu	Etsuji	Kasuya-mashi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ER\$4 00
	29		Elymus tsukushiensis	Kamojigusa	Davi	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ERS4 103
	30	Hemp	Cannabis sativa	Asa	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-
	31	Chinese mulberry	Morus australis	Yamaguwa	Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	1.3	ca. 5000 BP	TSK 285
	32		Browsonetia sp.	Kouzo	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-0
	33		Dougeonetia so.	Kouzo	Etsui	Kasuva-machi	Fukuoka	E.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ERS4 0
6	34	Japanese red elder	Sambucus sieboldiana	Niestoko	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saca	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-11
	35	Wildvine	Vitis sp. or Ampelopsis sp.	Budou	Etrui	Kasaya-machi	Fukuoka	6.1.	ca. 2800 SP	ERS4 0
	36		Ehretis evalfolis	Chishanoki	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Sara	E.Y.	6A. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-1
	37	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zanthrosyum alanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Torikakenishi s. m.	Funabashi City	Chiba	II.	ca. 9000 SP	TKN 001
								E.Y.	CA. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-
	38	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zamthroxyum allanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga			
	39	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zanthroxyum alanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-
7	40	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zamthroxyum allanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-1
	41	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zamthrosyum allanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-0
	42	Japanese Prickly-ash	Zanthrosyum alanthoides	Karasuzanshou	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HINT-1T-C
	43		Swide macrophylle	Kumanomizuki	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	E.J.	ca. 2800 SP	ERS4 0
	44	Giant dogwood	Cornus controversa	Marki	Torkakenishi s. m.	Funabashi City	Chiba	LJ.	ca. 8500 BP	TKN 000
	45	Pig's knee	Actyranthes bidentata	Inokezuchi	Chuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ER\$4 00
	46	Pigsknee	Aclyranthes bidentata	Inokezuchi	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-2
	47	Pigsknee	Aclyranthes bidentata	Inokezuchi	Itayo 3	linan-chou	Shimane	F. J.	ca. 2800 BP	ITY3 014
	48		Tonlis japonica	Yabujirami	Uenoharu	Kirishima City	Kagoshima	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	INHS 000
	49	Beggar lice	Desmodium podocarpum	Nuzubitshagi	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-0
	50	Beggar lice	Desmodium podocarpum	Nuzubitshagi	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F. J.	ca. 2800 BP	ER\$4 10
	51		Circaea mollis	Mizutamasou	Itaya 3	linan-chou	Shimane	E.J.	ca. 2800 SP	ITY3 013
	52	Cleavers	Gallum sprium	Yaemugura	Etsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F.J.	ca. 2800 BP	ERS4 10
	53	Antorbee	Strepsiptera	Ari or Hachi	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-1
	54	Seetle	Coleoptra	Kouchu	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca, 2600 BP	HHT-1T-
,	55	Militede	Diologoda	Yasude	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	6A. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-0
	56	Wood louse	Armadilloidae	Dancomushi	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Sara	EY.	ca. 2600 SP	HHT-1T-1

Page	No.	English name	Species of inclusions	Japanese name	Site name	Town, City	Prefecture	Era, phase	Age	Registrated N
	58	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	E.J.	ca. 5000 BP	TSX 285-117
10	59	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-264
	60	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Motonobaru	Miyazaki City	Miyazaki	L.J.	ca. 4000 SP	MN8 2239
	61	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Kozako	Shibushi City	Kagoshima	E.Y.	ca. 2600 SP	KZK 5009-1
	62	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Tsukagadan	Se'e City	Kagoshima	F. J.	ca. 3000 BP	TKD 0010-1
	63	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	E.J.	ca, 5000 BP	TSK 285-11
	64	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kokuzoumushi	Sanbonmatsu	Nishinoomote City	Kagoshima	M. J.	ca. 9500 BP	S8M 024-6
	65	Maize weevil	Sitophilus zeamais	Kekuzeumushi	San'nai Maruyama	Asmori City	Aomori	M. J.	ca. 5000 BP	SNM 0122
	66	Snall	Gastropoda	Makigai	Ctsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	E.L	ca. 2800 BP	ERS4 0227-
11	67	Snail	Gastropoda	Makigai	Ctruji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	E.L.	ca, 2800 SP	ERS4 0228-
	68	Snall	Gastropoda	Makigai	Higashihatase 1	Saga City	Saga	E.Y.	ca. 2600 BP	HHT-1T-422
12	69	Vessel with pellira fruits	(Perillo sp.)		Kotake s. m.	Teyama City	Toyama	E.J.	ca. 5500 BP	005 0064
13	70	Vesel with maize weevils	(Sitophilus zeamais)		Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	L.J.	ca. 3800 SP	TSX 484
14	71	Potsherd with maize weevils	(Sitophilus zeamais)	Kokuzoumushi	Yakushoden	Ebino City	Miyazaki	L.J.	ca. 3800 BP	YSD 0003
14	72	Potsherd with maize weevils	(Sitophilus zeamais)	Kokuzoumushi	Yakushoden	Ebino City	Miyazaki	LJ.	ca. 3800 SP	YSD 0075
15	73	Vessel with barryard millets	(Echinochlos esculents)	Hie	Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	M. J.	ca. 4500 BP	TSK 0928
15	74	Vessel with baryard millets	Echinochlos esculents	Hie	Tatesaki	Fukusima-cho	Hokkaido	E.J.	ca. 5000 BP	TSK 0975
	75	Potsherd with multi kinds of seeds	Japanese Prickly-ash etc.	Karasuzanshou-hoka	Torkakenishi s. m.	Funabashi City	Chiba	L.L.	ca. 9000 BP	TKN 0015
16	76	Potsherd with multi kinds of seeds	Lacquer tree etc.	Urushi-hoka	Torkakenishi s. m.	Fumabashi City	Chiba	1.1.	ca, 9000 SP	TKN 0009
**	77	Potsherd with pellira seeds	(Penilla furtescen)	Egoma	Shitanoya	Nishitokyo City	Tokyo	M. J.	ca. 5000 BP	STN 39
	78	Potsherd with soybeans	(Glycine max)	Dalaw	Shitanoya	Nishitokyo City	Tokyo	M. J.	ca. 5000 BP	STN 68
	79	Potsherd with pellira seeds	(Penilla furtescen)	Egoma	Inudzuka	Kasukabe City	Saltama	E.J.	ca. 5500 BP	INZ 076
17	80	Potsherd with pellira seeds	(Penilla furtescen)	Egoma	Inudzuka	Kasukabe City	Saitama	€.1.	ca. 5500 BP	INZ 026
**	81	Potsherd with Japanese Prickly-ash	(Zanthorylum ailanthoides)	Karasuzanshou	Hougaki	Nakatsu City	Oita	L.J.	ca. 3600 BP	HGK 0012
	82	Potsherd with foxtail millets	(Setania italica)	Amo	Ctsuji	Kasuya-machi	Fukuoka	F. J.	ca. 2700 SP	ERS4 1002-

Distribution map of sites in this book



Main references

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Postscript: Excavation of eathernware

Pottery is a mirror that reflects the life and spirituality of the Jomon people. In the 21st century, cutting-edge technology has made it possible to visualize a previously invisible world. This is the beginning of a new archaeological trend and the unveiling of a world through the excavation of pottery clay. However, there remain things that we do not understand, therefore, we must continue excavating earthenware.

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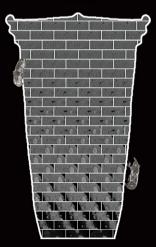
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