

原 著

## Dissolved Inorganic Carbon Rich in Mantle Component of Hot Spring Waters from the Hitoyoshi Basin in a Non-volcanic Region of Central Kyushu, Japan

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### 九州中部の非火山地域に位置する人吉盆地の マントル成分に富んだ温泉水の溶存無機炭素

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#### 要 旨

九州地方の阿蘇火山と霧島火山の間に位置する非火山地域の地下に深部流体を検出するために、地球化学的な広域温泉調査を実施した。調査した温泉の内8ヶ所において、全溶存無機炭素 (DIC) を含めた主要溶存化学成分の濃度を測定し、水の同位体組成 ( $\delta D$  と  $\delta^{18}O$ ) および DIC の炭素安定同位体比 ( $\delta^{13}C$ ) を得ることができたが、同時に溶存希ガス成分 (He と Ne) の化学・同位体データも取得することができた。希ガスデータの同位体システムティックスを検討した他、 $C/{}^3H$  比と  $\delta^{13}C$  の関係から DIC の炭素の起源推定を行ったところ、霧島火山の北方数十 km にある人吉盆地内において、沈み込み帯の火山性  $CO_2$  とは異なるマントル由来のヘリウムを伴ったマントル成分に富む DIC を含む温泉の湧出があることを認めた。

キーワード：温泉，ヘリウム，全溶存無機炭素，同位体，起源，人吉盆地

#### Abstract

To detect deep-seated aqueous fluid in the non-volcanic region between Aso and

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Kirishima volcanoes of Kyushu District, we conducted a geochemical investigation of hot springs over a wide area. Although the main geochemical data obtained were major chemical components, dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC), water isotope compositions ( $\delta D$  and  $\delta^{18}O$ ), and  $\delta^{13}C$  of DIC, we also obtained chemical and isotopic data of rare gases (He and Ne), from eight sites of the hot springs in this area. From isotope systematics of the rare gas data and consideration of source carbon of DIC based on the relation between  $C^3He$  ratio and  $\delta^{13}C$ , we concluded that hot spring waters bearing DIC extremely rich in mantle component with mantle-derived He, which differ from subduction-related volcanic  $CO_2$ , are discharged from the Hitoyoshi Basin located several tens of kilometers north of Kirishima volcano.

Key words : Hot spring, Helium, Dissolved inorganic carbon, Isotope, Origin, Hitoyoshi Basin

## 1. Introduction

Kyushu District in Japan is crowded with active Quaternary volcanoes, but it includes an extensive non-volcanic area between Aso and Kirishima volcanoes (Fig. 1). This area mainly comprises Mesozoic formations aligned mainly southwest-northeast, although Miocene igneous rocks are scattered, as presented in Fig. 1. Many people have investigated the problem of why no active volcano exists in this area. Some suppositions have been presented (e.g., Horikoshi, 1979 ; Kobayashi, 1986 ; Yoshida and Seno, 1992). However, the problem has not been resolved.

Recently, a high crustal conductive zone was reportedly found in this area (Kagiyama and Munekane, 2006). Referring to a distribution map of isopleths of the Curie point depth (Okubo *et al.*, 1989), it can be thought that no igneous body with temperature greater than 500°C lies to a

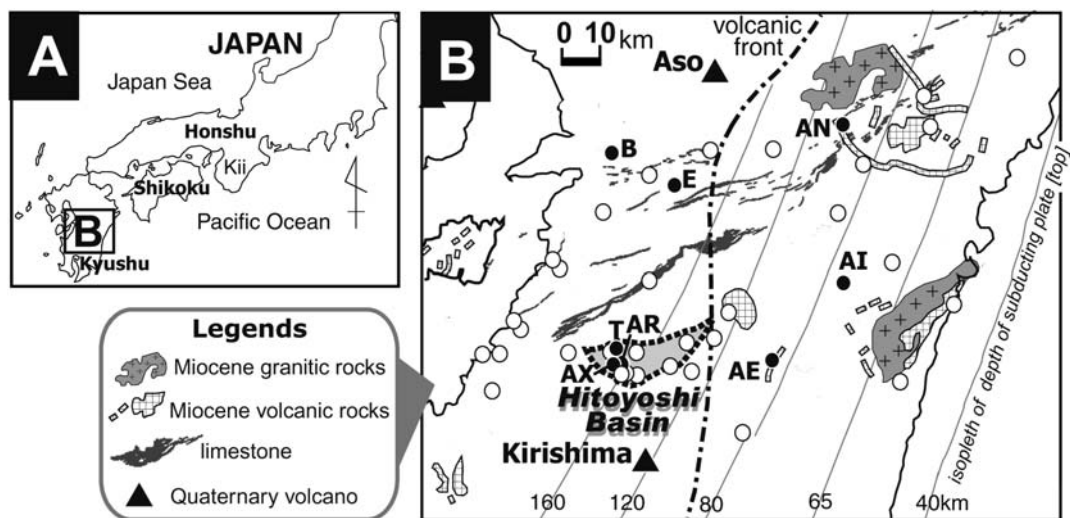


Fig. 1 Localities of hot springs investigated in this study (●) with related geologic information. Open circles (○) denote other hot springs examined simultaneously in this study. Distribution of limestone masses is cited from the seamless digital geological map of Japan 1 : 200,000 produced by Geological Survey of Japan, AIST (Feb 1, 2010 version). Distributions of Miocene granitic and volcanic rocks are traced from Fig. 3. 25 in Regional Geology of Japan Part 9 Kyushu (Editorial Committee of Kyushu, 1992). The isopleths of depth of subducting plate [top] are cited from Ishihara and Yoshida (1992).

depth of around 10 km under this area ; it will be considered alternatively that aqueous fluid is seated latently. Accordingly, we investigated many hot springs in this area seeking deep-seated aqueous fluid and obtained a stable carbon isotope ratio ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) of dissolved inorganic carbon ( $\text{DIC}=\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})+\text{HCO}_3^-+\text{CO}_3^{2-}$ ), together with concentrations of major chemical components including DIC and water isotope composition ( $\delta\text{D}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ ). We also collected water samples to obtain geochemical data of dissolved rare gases (He and Ne), in cases where atmospheric-air contact to hot spring water was avoidable at sampling. Eventually, eight samples were obtained.

Examining the relation between the  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\text{C}/^3\text{He}$  ratio on the samples in conformity to previous reports (Sano and Marty, 1995 ; Sano *et al.*, 1997 ; Nishio *et al.*, 1998 ; Sato *et al.*, 1999 ; Ohsawa and Yusa, 2001 ; Yamamoto *et al.*, 2001 ; Deines, 2002 ; Sumino *et al.*, 2004 ; Dogan *et al.*, 2006 ; Mao *et al.*, 2009 ; Ohba *et al.*, 2010), we found DIC extremely rich in mantle component accompanied with mantle-derived He in hot spring waters discharged from the Hitoyoshi Basin. Therefore, we expressly report this result herein before the presentation of other geochemical data.

## 2. Sampling and analyses

Hot spring waters, for analyses of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and dissolved rare gases (He and Ne) and also for their isotope measurements, were collected from wells at eight hot spring sites (solid circles T, AR, AX, AI, AE, AN, B, and E in Fig. 1). Samples for DIC were stored in a  $\text{CO}_2$  gas-tight plastic bottle (Barex<sup>®</sup>, Nikko Hansen & Co., Ltd., Japan), following the example of Ohsawa *et al.* (2002). Hot spring waters for rare gases were introduced directly in a soft copper pipe (outside diameter, 9.5 mm ; inside diameter, 7.9 mm ; length, 30 cm ; capacity, about 40 mL) avoiding air-contamination ; they were sealed using special clamps, following the example of Morikawa *et al.* (2008).

Concentrations of DIC were determined using a  $\text{CO}_2$ -gas electrode with an ion meter after all carbonate species in the sample water were converted into  $\text{CO}_2(\text{aq})$  by addition of sulfuric acid. Stable carbon isotope ratios ( $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ ) of DIC were obtained by transferring the generated  $\text{CO}_2$  gas through addition of phosphoric acid to  $\text{SrCO}_3$  precipitated from the sample water to a mass spectrometer at the Stable Isotope Laboratory of IGNS, New Zealand. Concentrations of dissolved He, Ne, and  $^3\text{He}$  were analyzed using mass spectrometry at the Geo-Science Laboratory, Japan after extracting dissolved gases from the water samples in the copper pipe. Maximum errors of the analyses were roughly estimated as  $[\text{He}]\pm 1.0\%$ ,  $[\text{Ne}]\pm 2\%$ ,  $[^3\text{He}]\pm 1.5\%$ ,  $[\text{DIC}]\pm 3\%$  (at ca. 50 mg/L), and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}\pm 0.2\%$ .

## 3. Results and discussion

Chemical and isotopic data obtained from the samples are presented in Table 1 with information showing the well depth and water temperature. The  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  value is calculated from concentrations of  $^3\text{He}$  and He considering  $^4\text{He}$  to be the greater part of He. The measured  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  ratios normalized by the atmospheric value ( $1.39\times 10^{-6}$ ) are shown in Fig. 2 against  $^4\text{He}/^{20}\text{Ne}$  ratios, which are substituted from He/Ne ratios. All samples in this diagram are

Table 1 Chemical and isotopic data of dissolved inorganic carbon (DIC) and dissolved noble gases of hot spring waters investigated in this study.

No.	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Depth of well (m)	Water temp. (°C)	DIC (mg/L)	$\delta^{13}\text{C-DIC}$ (‰)	He (ccSTP/g)	Ne (ccSTP/g)	$^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$
T	32° 14' 57"	130° 44' 48"	1000	38.2	520	-10.0	$3.53 \times 10^{-5}$	$1.13 \times 10^{-6}$	$4.92 \times 10^{-6}$
AR	32° 12' 34"	130° 45' 47"	?	49.6	360	-13.9	$9.43 \times 10^{-6}$	$2.15 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.02 \times 10^{-5}$
AX	32° 13' 33"	130° 43' 2"	400	42.3	560	-9.0	$3.34 \times 10^{-4}$	$6.00 \times 10^{-7}$	$1.97 \times 10^{-6}$
AI	32° 23' 22"	131° 19' 52"	1500	37.1	435	-3.7	$9.39 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.90 \times 10^{-8}$	$9.98 \times 10^{-7}$
AE	32° 13' 25"	131° 9' 49"	1400	36.5	740	-4.5	$2.80 \times 10^{-6}$	$1.01 \times 10^{-7}$	$9.04 \times 10^{-7}$
AN	32° 43' 30"	131° 20' 48"	1000	27.8	105	-13.3	$2.73 \times 10^{-7}$	$2.29 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.67 \times 10^{-7}$
B	32° 40' 1"	130° 44' 1"	996	35.5	109	-13.5	$6.82 \times 10^{-8}$	$1.78 \times 10^{-7}$	$9.60 \times 10^{-7}$
E	32° 36' 32"	130° 53' 0"	1000	29.6	45	-16.3	$6.14 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.98 \times 10^{-7}$	$3.68 \times 10^{-7}$

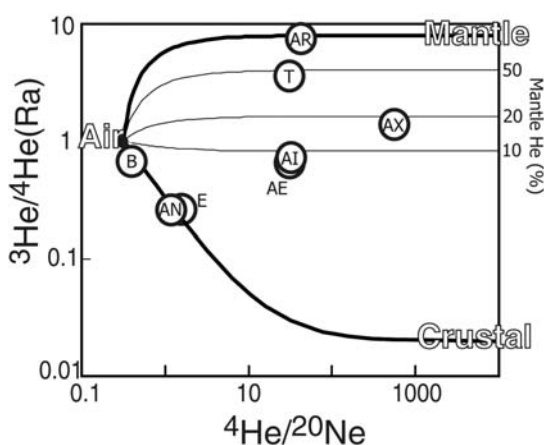


Fig. 2 Plot of  $^3\text{He}/^4\text{He}$  versus  $^4\text{He}/^{20}\text{Ne}$  ratios for water samples obtained for this study. The upper line represents the mixing line between air and upper mantle components; the lower one is a mixing line for air and crust components. The medium thickness lines show trajectories for mixing between air and deep-originated gas for various mantle helium components of 10, 20 and 50%.

9%, respectively. Those of atmospheric He on samples B, AN, and E are shown as 83%, 27%, and 21%, respectively.

Figure 3 portrays a diagram showing the  $\text{C}/^3\text{He}$  ratio as a function of  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  value presented by Sano and Marty (1995). It is used to be applied to obtain a rigid constraint on the origin of DIC for hot spring water samples. This figure shows data of eight water samples (T, AR, AX, AI, AE, AN, B, and E) together with mantle, sedimentary organic carbon and marine carbonate (Sano and Marty, 1995; Nishio *et al.*, 1998; Deines, 2002), and subduction-related fumarolic gases from Kirishima and Aso volcanoes (Sato *et al.*, 1999; NEDO, 1989). All samples show mixing features of mantle, sedimentary organic carbon and marine carbonate components. However, contributions of the components vary and can be divided roughly into three groups. Samples B,

distributed in a region that is explainable in terms of a mixing model with three end-member components: upper mantle gas, crustal gas containing a large amount of radiogenic  $^4\text{He}$ , and atmospheric air. Two thick lines connecting atmospheric air to mantle gas and to crustal gas in Fig. 2 are the mixing lines. Sample AR is close to the upper mixing line to the mantle end member. Samples B, AN, and E are on the lower mixing line from atmospheric air to crustal gas. Samples T, AX, AE, and AI contain all the components, but mixing proportions of atmospheric air component are almost zero, as determined using a calculation method of contribution of the three end members presented by Shimizu *et al.* (2005). By this calculation, contributions of mantle He on sample AR, T, AX, AE, and AI are estimated as 91%, 44%, 18%, 8%, and 9%, respectively. Those of atmospheric He on samples B, AN, and E are shown as 83%, 27%, and 21%, respectively.

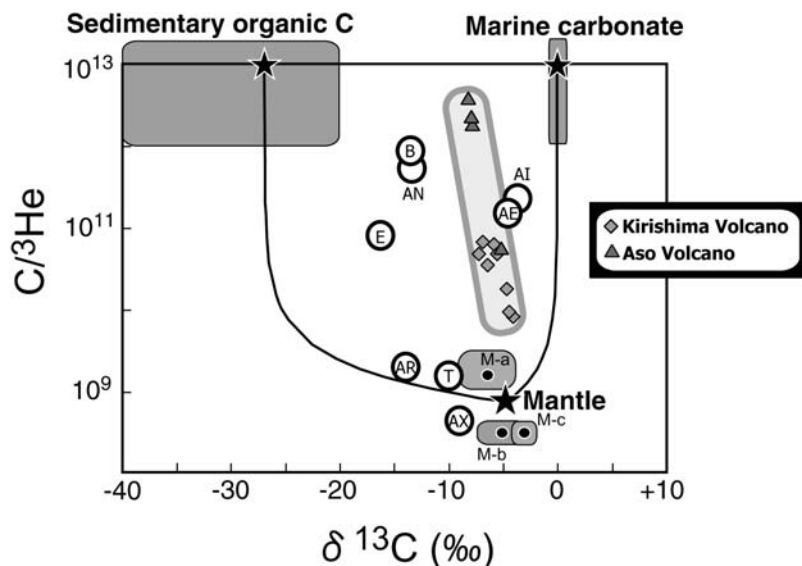


Fig. 3 Correlation between  $C/{}^3\text{He}$  ratio and  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  of DIC for water samples in this study. In addition, model end members for mantle (M-a : Sano and Marty, 1995 ; M-b : Deines, 2002 ; M-c : Nishio *et al.*, 1998), marine carbonate (Sano and Marty, 1995) and sedimentary organic carbon [mean value of Sano and Marty (1995), Deines (2002) and Nishio *et al.* (1998)] are shown in this figure. The tie lines of the model end members are mixing lines.

AN, and E are rich in the sedimentary organic carbon component. These samples contain remarkable amounts of atmospheric He as presented above, showing that the organic carbon is probably be derived from soil. Samples AR, T, and AX are rich in the mantle component, whereas samples AE and AI are not rich in the mantle component but rich in the marine carbonate component. This distinction on the  $C/{}^3\text{He}$ — $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  diagram is approximately consistent with the He isotope systematics described above. Moreover, samples AE and AI have features similar to those of subduction-related volcanic  $\text{CO}_2$ .

We examined the geographical distribution of geochemically differentiated hot springs. Hot springs B, AN, and E are located in the northwestern part of the studied area occupied by old geologic bodes accompanied with many limestone areas shown in Fig. 1 (Sambagawa and Chichibu Belts). The contributions of the marine carbonate component on DIC of these hot spring waters are not negligible, perhaps because of the small limestone bodies. Hot springs AI and AE, whose DIC are rich in the marine carbonate component more than hot springs B, AN, and E, are located in the southeastern part of the studied area. Because the surface distribution of limestone is scarce in this area, the DIC rich in the marine carbonate component of these hot spring waters (AI and AE) is originated in greater depths, probably derived from dehydrated fluid from the subducting Philippine-Sea Plate such as Umeda *et al.* (2006) assumed at the Kii Peninsula of SW Japan. Because hot spring AE is situated along a distribution of Miocene volcanic rocks, the possibility exists that such a DIC is residual magmatic  $\text{CO}_2$  in old igneous body, but if so, the same feature ought to appear on hot spring AN. Hot springs AR, T, and AX,

whose DIC are rich in the mantle component, are situated in the Hitoyoshi Basin, which is thought to be a tectonic basin (e.g., Chida, 2000). The southern part of Kyushu, including this basin area from Pliocene to Pleistocene, was on a regional stress field by extensional or trans-tensional tectonics of NW—SE or NNE—SSW direction (Yamaji *et al.*, 2003). The high contributions of the mantle component to DIC and He of hot spring waters in the Hitoyoshi Basin suggest that a fluid channel for uprising of mantle-derived CO<sub>2</sub> and He must be formed in the crust under this basin area.

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