Vertebrate tracks in the upper part of the Omma Formation (Pleistocene) of west-central Japan

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Abstract:

Vertebrate footprints are preserved in two horizons of a locality in the Pleistocene Omma Formation (approximately 90Ma) in Kanazawa, west-central Japan. The depositional environment of the site is a typical floodplain (Muddy sand- fine sand). Dominant proboscid and scattered cervid tracks occur on the upper horizon (Approximately 5 tracks on approximately 13m^2), while a ruminant trackway is recognized together with rare avian and proboscid footprints on the lower horizon (Approximately 20 tracks on the bearing surfaces is approximately 10m^2). Vertically undulated bedding between the horizons may represent cross sections of large footprints. The trace fossils indicate flourishment of vertebrates that migrated from an adjacent continent when a land bridge was formed, but no longer inhabit the island arch today.

Keywords: large footprint, ruminant, land bridge