103. A Contribution to the Bone-marrow-cells of the Upper and the Middle Pleistocene Man in Japan

By Seizo KATSUNUMA, M.J.A., Hisashi SUZUKI,*

and Kanji FURUTA**

(Comm. July 12, 1960)

In September, 1929, Seizo Katsunuma and Rokuro Katsunuma\(^1\) reported on the cytology of human skeletons in the neolithic age. This study was the first of this kind ever made in academic circles. The materials which they studied had been collected in shell-mounds near Nagoya, Japan. They pointed out the fact that the materials seemed to have the blood agglutinogen A. From the result of the study, they suggested the possibility of determination of blood-group even about neolithic bones.

In September, 1934, H. Obermaier in Madrid, Spain, had become to know their above-mentioned report and donated to them some of his bone-materials of the palaeolithic age (Azilian, Magdalenian, Solutrean, and Mousterian), for their research. It is found by us that the materials of Magdalenian denoted to have the blood agglutinogen B, while those of the Mousterian seemed to have the blood agglutinogen A.\(^2\)

Recently one of us, anthropologist H. Suzuki,\(^3\) excavated a human skull in Mikkabi, Shizuoka prefecture (1959), and a human arm-bone in Ushikawa, Aichi prefecture (1957). Those two places are located in the central part of Japan. It was determined anthropologically by H. Suzuki and also geologically by F. Takai, Department of Geology, University of Tokyo, that the skull of Mikkabi belonged to the upper Pleistocene man, and the arm-bone of Ushikawa to the middle Pleistocene man.

Studies on the bone-marrow of the materials were performed by S. Katsunuma and K. Furuta, and the following results are obtained as hereby preliminarily reported:

The blood agglutinogen AB was clearly proved by the absorption method in the both Pleistocene materials.

Along with the human skull of Mikkabi, Suzuki excavated a Magaceros’ ilium, a giant deer in the Pleistocene age, which showed the presence of the blood agglutinogen B. Eosinophilic leucocytes

\(*\) Department of Anthropology, University of Tokyo.

\(**\) Legal Medicine, University of Nagoya.


2) Rokuro Katsunuma: Ibid., 10, no. 8 (1934).

with peroxidase are hematologically observed. However, the other kinds of blood corpuscles were by no means demonstrated distinctly in the materials.

The full paper on the discovery of the Pleistocene man in Japan, from the anthropological point of view, is to be presented by Suzuki to the forthcoming International Anthropological Congress in Paris at the beginning of August, 1960.