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Geothermal Activity of the Yakedake Volcano, Gifu-Nagano, Japan

Jun Iriyama

Department of Natural Sciences, Chubu University, 1200 Matsumoto, Kasugai, Aichi 487-8501 Japan

ABSTRACT

The temperature of the most active solfatara in the summit crater of the Yakedake volcano (altitude 2,455 m) was 92.0 and 116.7°C in October 1997 and in September 1996, respectively. The temperature of the solfatara in the northern summit dome at an altitude of 2,240 to 2,270 m ranged from 51.3 to 92.7°C in October 1997. The water sample from a crater pond, Shoga-ike (altitude 2,350 m), located on the summit, showed a pH and electrical conductivity of 4.32 and 32.5 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in October 1997, respectively. In the water from the Shoga-ike pond, the amount of SO_4^- , CO_3^- , Cl^- and F^- in October 1997 was 7.75, 3.98, 0.21 and 0.027 mg/l, respectively, using Ion Chromatograph. The amount of Ca^{++} , Na^+ , K^+ , NH_4^+ and MG^{++} was 1.38, 0.61, 0.39, 0.16 and 0.091 mg/l, respectively.

Introduction

There are eighty-three active volcanoes in Japan (J.M.A., 1996), which correspond to approximately 10% of the total number in the world. The present study will consider thirty-seven major active volcanoes from among them (see Table 1 and Figure 1). As shown in Figure 1, the active volcanoes of Japan can be classified into two volcanic belts (Sugimura, 1960): one is eastern Japan volcanic belt from Hokkaido through northeastern and central Japan to the Izu-Ogasawara Islands (i.e. the Chishima, Nasu, Chokai, Fuji and Norikura volcanic zones), the other is the western Japan volcanic belt from Honshu through Kyushu to the Ryukyu Islands (i.e. the Daisen and Kirishima volcanic zones). Many of the active volcanoes have fumarolic activities at the summit or the crater and hydrothermal activities at the foot (i.e. geothermal area). Some of them are related to the geothermal power stations at the foot or in the surrounding area for generation of electricity for industrial utilization of geothermal energy. The eruptive, fumarolic and hydrothermal activities and related or adjacent to geothermal power stations of these volcanoes are summarized in Table 1, in which new data from Takigami geothermal station are added. The accumulated information in this table indicated that the

volcanoes which are related to geothermal power stations have common characteristics: 1) fumarolic activity at the summit or the crater except for Kaimondake, 2) geothermal area and many hot springs at the foot or on the slope, 3) eruptive activity in the ninth to the twentieth century except for the Hachiman-tai and 4) altitude higher than about five hundred meters above sea level (Iriyama, 1994). This shows that the Yakedake volcano meets the necessary conditions from geological aspects in order to operate geothermal power station.

The study area is in a rugged section of the southern part of the Japan's Northern Alps Mountains. The locations of explosion craters, valleys (sawa) and general topography in the study area are shown in Figure 2. Yakedake is a volcano with a lava dome, belonging to the Norikura volcanic zone (e.g. Haruyama, 1990). The volcano has been in a dormant state since the eruption of July 1962 to March 1963, whose explosions took place at an altitude of about 2,200 m on the northern side of the dome and formed an arc fissure of about five hundred meters in length and about thirty or less meters in width (Isshiki, 1962 ; Yamada, 1962). However, the fumaroles in the summit dome areas of Yakedake and the parasitic volcano, Iwodake (altitude 2,140 m), are still active. The eruption in 1915 created new craters in the areas of the Shimohori and Nakahori valleys at an altitude of about 1,900 m above sea level, and formed Taisho-ike pond by damming up the Azusa River with mud flows from the mountainside (Murayama, 1979). The basement comprises Paleozoic to Mesozoic sedimentary rocks, and Mesozoic volcanic rocks and intrusive granite (Kato, 1912).

The hydrothermal activity is intense in the valleys at the western and southeastern feet of the volcano. There are many hot springs, a geyser and at least one travertine terrace formed by the hot water flow along the Gamada, Takahara and Azusa Rivers and their branching streams, i.e. the Ashiarai, Shiramizu, Abo and Shiratani valleys. The author has classified the geothermal zones according to the rivers, i.e. the Gamada, Takahara and Azusa River geothermal zones (Iriyama, 1983).

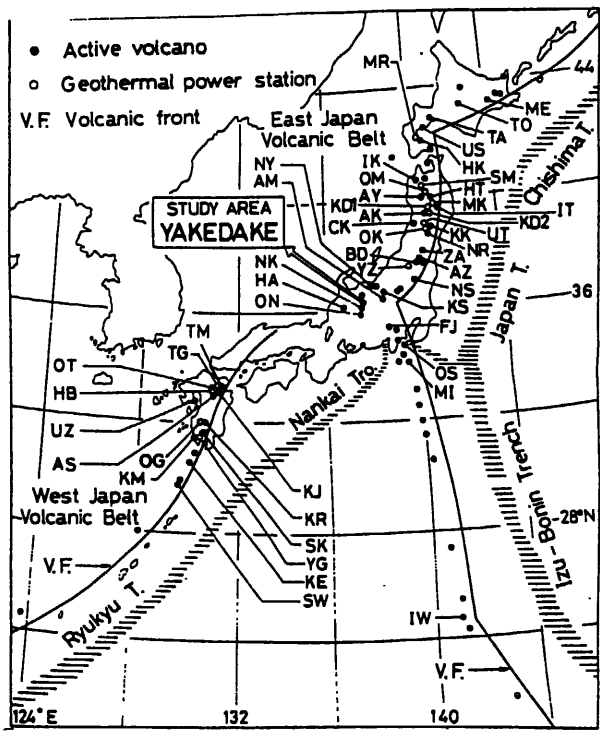


Figure 1. Distribution of active volcanoes, geothermal power stations, volcanic belts, volcanic fronts, trenches and trough in and around Japanese Islands. Abbrev.: T, Trench; Tro, Trough; ME, Meakan; TO, Tokachi; TA, Tarumae; US, Usu; MR, Mori; HK, Komagatake; IK, Iwaki; SM, Sumikawa; UM, Ohnuma; AY, Akita-Yakeyama; HT, Hachimantai, MK, Matsukawa; KD, Kakkonda; IT, Iwate; AK, Akita-Komagatake; CK, Chokai; UT, Uenotai; KK, Kurikoma; OK, Onikobe; NR, Naruko; ZA, Zao; AZ, Azuma; BD, Bandai; YZ, Yanaizu-Nishiyama; NS, Nasu; KS, Kusarsu-Shirane; AM, Asama; NY, Niigata-Yakeyama; NK, Norikura; ON, Ontake; HA, Hakusan; FJ, Fuji; OS, Oshima; MI, Miyakezima; IW, Iozima; TM, Tsurum; KJ, Kuju; OT, Otake; HB, Hatchobaru; UZ, Unzen; OG, Ogiri; KR, Kirishima; SK, Sakurajima; KM, Kaimondake; YG, Yamagawa; KE, Kuchinoerabujima; SW, Suwanosejima; TG, Takigami.

Yakedake and Iwodake Summit Dome Areas

Yakedake

The Yakedake dome consists of Quaternary biot bearing hornblende andesite (Iriyama et al., 1981). As shown in Figure 2, Yakedake has several explosion craters. There are two craters on the summit area. The eruption in 1962 formed a crater called Inkyo-ko on the northern margin of old crater. The size of the Inkyo-ko crater is about 140 m long and 80 m wide. The author threw stones at the bottom on the 16 September 1996 and determined the depth of crater from the sound response, which was about 120 m deep. The other is the old crater, which is about 240 m long and 180 m wide surrounded by crater rim. A crater pond called Shoga-ike is formed on its bottom.

The temperature of the most active solfatara (S1 in Figure 2; altitude 2,445 m) in the summit crater was 92.0°C in October 1997 and 116.7°C in October 1996 and September 1996, respectively. The boiling point of water at an altitude of 2,445 m is about 92.1°C. Other solfatara are found along the 1962 explosion crater within a dry valley from the crater-rim in the north summit dome at an altitude of 2,240 to 2,270 m. The locations of solfatara and fumaroles in the study area are shown in Figure 2. Sublimation of sulfur around the solfatara is observed there. The temperatures of fumaroles ranged from 51.3 to 92.7°C in October 1997. The boiling point of water at an altitude of 2,250 m is about 92.4°C. Variations of measured temperatures of the solfatara over time since September 1986 are shown in Figure 3. The temperature of the active solfatara Y₃ and Y₄ keeps a constant temperature (~92.6°C) overtime since October 1989.

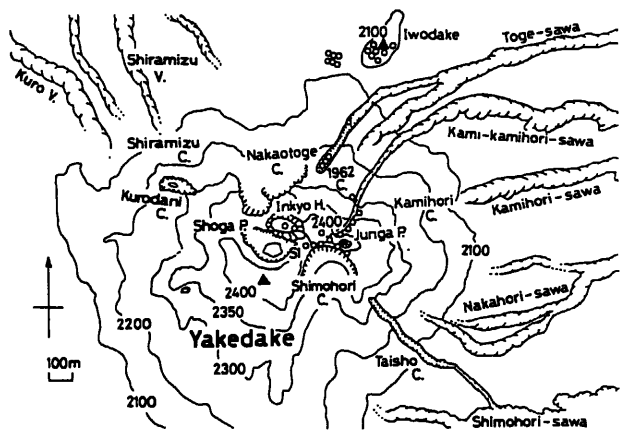


Figure 2. Location map of explosion craters, fumaroles, solfatara, valleys and general topography in the study area.

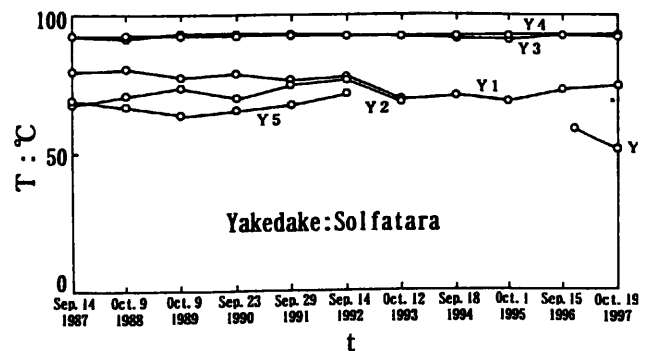


Figure 3. Measured temperatures (°C) of the Yakedake's solfatara as a function of time.

The water sample from a crater pond, Shoga-ike, on summit showed a pH and electrical conductivity (EC) of 4 and 32.5 μS/cm in October 1997, respectively. In the water from the Shoga-ike pond, the amount of SO₄²⁻, CO₃²⁻, Cl⁻ and F⁻ in October 1997 were 7.75, 3.98, 0.21 and 0.027 mg, respectively, using Ion Chromatograph TOA: ICA-3000. The amount of Ca⁺⁺, Na⁺, K⁺, NH₄⁺ and Mg⁺⁺ was 1.38, 0.39, 0.16 and 0.091 mg/l, respectively.

Iwodake

The summit lava dome of Iwodake, parasitic volcano of Yakedake, is made up of Quarternary hornblende andesite (Iriyama et al., 1981). Many fumaroles are found at the bottom of the large stones on the southern dome at an altitude of 2,110 to 2,140 m. Some fumaroles appear in small cylindrical holes in the ground. Steam is mainly discharged from these holes and apertures. Variations of measured temperatures of the fumaroles over time since September 1986 are shown in Figure 2. The temperatures of eleven fumaroles ranged from, 43.7 to 64.1°C in October 1997. Variations of measured temperatures of the fumaroles over time since September 1986 are shown in Figure 4.

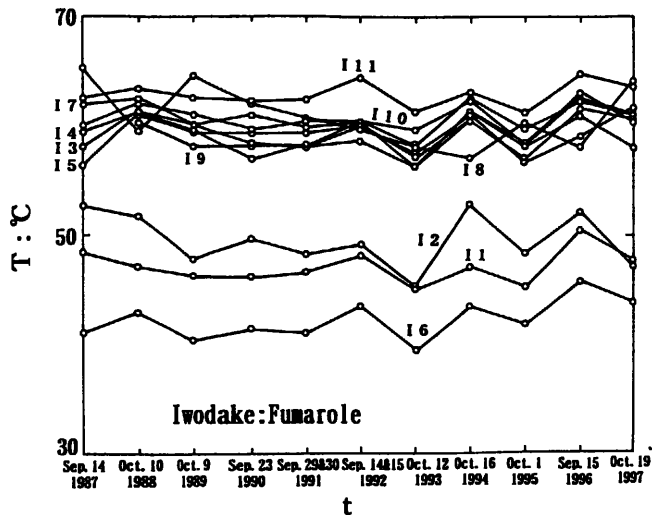


Figure 4. Measured temperatures (°C) of the Iwodake's fumaroles as a function of time.

Discussion

Geothermal Activity

The Yakedake volcano almost preserves the original volcanic topography. It can be inferred from the topography of the volcano that the eruptions have taken place continuously for about the last 100,000 years (Iriyama, 1981), i.e. the latest Late Pleistocene to the Recent. Variations of temperatures of the solfatara S1 in the summit over time since 1907 and eruption records of the volcano are shown in Figure 5. The temperature of the most active solfatara S1 has decreased quickly with time since 1933 in spite of the eruption in 1962. As is presented in Table 2, the temperature has ranged from 92.0 to 129.4°C for last five years. However, the fumarolic activity is still vigorous and just like the mountain tops are covered in a cloud, looking southwest from kamikochi, six kilometers from the summit of Yakedake.

Prediction of Eruption

In 1962 a steam explosion occurred on the northern side (altitude, 2,200 m) of the dome. The water sample from the

crater pond Shoga-ike showed the pH and electrical conductivity of 3.7 and 80.8 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$, respectively (Ossaka, 1961) in 1961. Variations of physico-chemical data over time since 1991 of the crater pond Shoga-ike's water and of the solfatara S1 in the summit are listed in Table 2. As is presented in Table 2, the values of the pH and electrical conductivity were 4.38 and 42.2 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in October 1991, 4.35 and 42.4 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in September 1992, and 4.11 and 76.6 $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ in October 1994, respectively. The values of the pH and electrical conductivity of water from the crater pond Shoga-ike in 1994 differ widely from those in 1991 and 1992, which approached the 1961 pre-eruption values of the volcano. It would seem that this indicates a possibility of the eruption and/or the high geothermal activity of the volcano. Because, the eruption in the summit dome area did not occur in 1995, however, a large steam explosion occurred in the Nakanoyu hot springs of the southeastern mountainside at an altitude of 1,310 m on 23 February 1995.

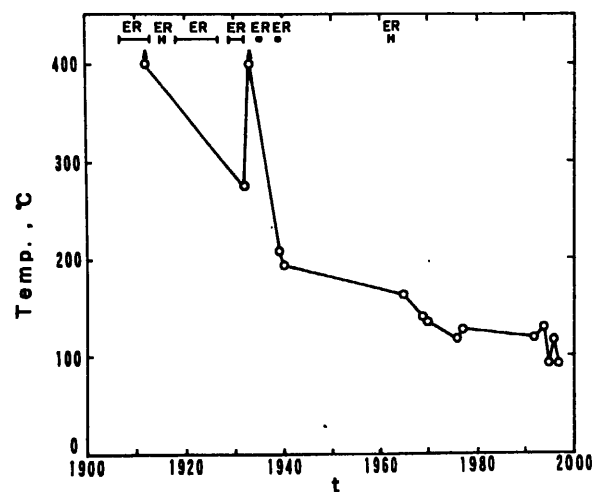


Figure 5. Variations of temperatures of the solfatara S1 in the summit over time since 1910 and eruption records of the volcano. Abbrev.: ER, Eruption. Width of line denotes the period during eruption of Yakedake. Ref.: Kato (1912), Kodaira (1932), Oana (1939, 1942), Sugiura and Mizutani (1978), J.M.A. (1996), Iriyama (1992, 1995a,b, 1996, 1997, present study).

Geothermal Structure

From the results of the thermal investigations of natural hot springs, fumaroles, solfatara, drill holes and three-dimensional calculation of temperature field within the volcano (Yuhara and Iriyama, 1986; Iriyama, 1981, 1983, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1995a,b,c, 1996, 1997, present study), the geothermal structure model of the Yakedake volcanos presented in Figure 6. As shown in Figure 6, the subsurface temperature is very high in the volcanic central part with the vent. The isotherms encircle the volcanic center of Yakedake. The subsurface temperature is also high in the Shiramizu valley at an altitude of 1,600 m, Nakanoyu (altitude 1,300 m) and Karukaya (altitude 900 m) along the Gamada River. It is located at least one travertine terrace by the hot water flow ($\sim 33.3^\circ\text{C}$) in the Shiramizu

valley. The Nakanoyu and Karukaya are geothermal areas with self-flowing hot springs.

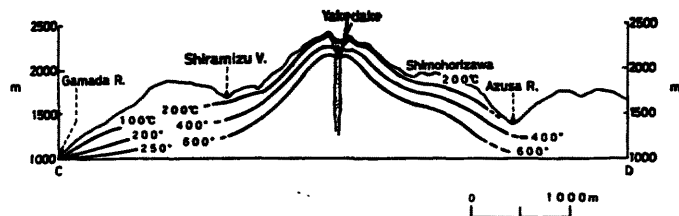


Figure 6. Geothermal structure of the Yakedake volcano, central Japan.

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Table 1. Eruption, fumarole, geothermal area, hot spring and adjoining geothermal station on the active volcanoes, Japan.

Name (alt.,m)	Recent ¹² Eruption	Fumarole	Geothermal ¹³ Area		Hot ^{3,13} Spring	Geothermal ¹³ Station
Meakan (1,499m)	1988			Tomuraushi	Akankohan, 64°C	
Tokachi (2,077m)	1989	Cr: 356°C ⁴			many	
Tarumae (1,041m)	1979	Cr: 737°C ⁵			Toyako, 51°C	
Usu (732m)	1980	Showa-shinzan, do: 830°C ⁶		Shikabe	Many	Mori
HK-Komagatake (1,131m)	1942			Tamagawa	Dake, 71°C	Sumikawa
Iwaki (1,625m)	1863			Fukenoyu, Toshichi	Many	Onuma
Akita-Yakeyama (1,366m)	1957			Matsukawa	Many	Matsukawa
Hachimantai (1,613m)				Kuroyu	Many	Kakkonda
Iwate (2,038m)	1719	Myokogatake, sl: > 360°C ⁷			Yunodai, 29°C	
Akita-Komagatake (1,637m)	1971	Medake, cr: 490°C ⁸ , 86°C ⁹			Many	
Chokai (2,236m)	1974	Cr: 52°C ¹⁰		Sugawa, Komanoyu	Many	Uenotai
Kurikoma (1,628m)	1944			Naruko	Many	Onikobe
Naruko (461m)	8371				Many	
Zao (1,841m)	1923				Kamoshika, 75°C	
Azuma (2,035m)	1977	Jododaira, sl: 62°C ¹¹			Shintakayu, 56°C	
Bandai (1,819m)	1888			Nakanoyu	Many	Yanaizu-Nishiyama
Nasu (1,915m)	1963			Sandogoya	Many	
Kusatsu-Shirane (2,171m)	1983	Mizugama, cr: 91°C ¹²		Sesshogawara	Kusatsu	
Asama (2,568m)	1990				Sengataki, 38°C	
Niigata-Yakeyama (2,400m)	1989	Su: 92°C, do: 93°C ¹³		Nakanoyu, Shinhotaka	Sasakura, 60°C	
Yakedake (2,455m)	1963				Many	
Norikura (3,026m)					Shirahone, 49°C	
Ontake (3,067m)	1991	Kengamine, cr: 145°C ¹⁴		Oshirakawa	Nigorigo, 47°C ¹⁵	
Hakusan (2,702m)	1579	Jigokudani				
Fuji (3,776m)	1707					
Izu-Oshima (764m)	1990	Miharayama, cr: 145°C ¹⁶				
Miyakejima (813m)	1983	Oyama, cc: 910°C ¹⁷		Chidorigahara		
Iwojima (1,611m)	1982			Myoban, Kannawa	Many	Suginoi H.
Tsurumi (1,375m)	867			Otake, Sujiyu	Many	Hatchobaru, Otake, Takigami
Kuju (1,791m)	1742	Iwoyama, cr: 269°C ¹⁸				
Aso (1,592m)	Present			Jigoku, Yunotani	Many	
Unzen (1,359m)	1995	Fugendake, cr: 772°C ¹⁹			Obama	
Kirishima (1,700m)	1991	Iwoyama, sl: 174°C ²⁰		Tearai, Yunono	Many	Ogiri, Kirishima K.H.
Sakurajima (1,117m)	Present	Minamidake, cr: > 760°C ²¹			Furusato, 52°C	
Kaimondake (922m)	885			Narikawa	Many	Yamagawa
Kuchinoerabujima (657m)	1980				Nishiura, 67°C	
Suwanosejima (799m)	Present				Fukuseisi	

Abbrev. sl: slope, do: dome, su: summit, cr: crater, cc: cinder cone, HK Hokkaido. Ref.: 1) Nat. Astron. Obs., 1997 2) J.M.A., 1996 3) Yuhara, 1974 4) Hirabayashi et al., 1990 5) Sugoshi and Maekawa, 1981 6) Hayakawa, 1988 7) Noguchi et al., 1961 8) Suwa et al., 1971 9) Kitsunozaki and Kikuchi 1988 10) Uti and Shirabayashi, 1975 11) Kagiyama and Hagiwara, 1980 12) Hirabayashi, 1988 13) Present Study, 1996 14) Ossaka et al., 1983 15) Yamada, 1982 16) Ehara et al., 1975 17) Hirabayashi et al., 1984 18) Ehara et al., 1981 19) Joint Univ. Res. Cr., 1992 20) Kagiyama et al., 1979 21) Kamo et al., 1977

Table 2. Variations of physico-chemical data over time since 1991 of the crater pond Shoga-ike's water and of the solfatara SI in the summit of Yakedake.

	20 Oct. 1997	16 Sept. 1995	30 Sept. 1994	30 Oct. 1994	15 Sept. 1992	21 Oct. 1991	1960
PH	4.32	4.34	4.30	4.11	4.35	4.38	3.7
Elec. Cond. ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$)	32.5	37.1	45.1	76.6	42.4	42.2	80.8
Solfatara SI Temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	92.0	116.7	92.2	129.4	119.4		
SO ₄ ⁻	7.748	8.373	11.561	22.92		11.25	29.6
CO ₃ ⁻	3.978						
Cl ⁻	0.212	0.032	0.150	0.25		0.32	
NO ₃ ⁻	-	-	0.274	-		0.09	Ossaka (1961)
Chem. Ca ⁺⁺	1.380	1.423	1.668	2.65		1.71	
Comp. Na ⁺	0.610	0.403	0.513	0.87		0.65	
(mg/l) K ⁺	0.392	0.146	0.239	0.41		0.31	
Mg ⁺⁺	0.091	0.105	0.136	0.37		0.23	
NH ₄ ⁺	0.156	0.118	0.090	0.068		0.02	
Li ⁺	-	-	-	-		0.0003	
Water Temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	2.7	14.5	9.9	6.7	14.5		
(Time)	(10:00)	(10:00)	(14:55)	(12:40)	(11:50)		