

## レアアース泥に関する最新研究成果の総括

## The progress of researches on REY-rich mud —A general overview—

\*加藤 泰浩<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>、中村 謙太郎<sup>2</sup>、藤永 公一郎<sup>3,1</sup>、安川 和孝<sup>2,3</sup>、高谷 雄太郎<sup>4,3</sup>、大田 隼一郎<sup>3,1</sup>、田中 えりか<sup>2</sup>、見邨 和英<sup>2</sup>、飯島 耕一<sup>5,2</sup>、町田 嗣樹<sup>3,1</sup>、野崎 達生<sup>5,3,1,6</sup>、木村 純一<sup>7</sup>、岩森 光<sup>7,8</sup>

\*Yasuhiro Kato<sup>1,2,3,5</sup>, Kentaro Nakamura<sup>2</sup>, Koichiro Fujinaga<sup>3,1</sup>, Kazutaka Yasukawa<sup>2,3</sup>, Yutaro Takaya<sup>4,3</sup>, Junichiro Ohta<sup>3,1</sup>, Erika Tanaka<sup>2</sup>, Kazuhide Mimura<sup>2</sup>, Koichi Iijima<sup>5,2</sup>, Shiki Machida<sup>3,1</sup>, Tatsuo Nozaki<sup>5,3,1,6</sup>, Jun-Ichi Kimura<sup>7</sup>, Hikaru Iwamori<sup>7,8</sup>

1. 東京大学大学院工学系研究科エネルギー・資源フロンティアセンター、2. 東京大学大学院工学系研究科システム創成学専攻、3. 千葉工業大学次世代海洋資源研究センター、4. 早稲田大学創造理工学部環境資源工学科、5. 海洋研究開発機構海底資源研究開発センター、6. 神戸大学大学院理学研究科惑星学専攻、7. 海洋研究開発機構地球内部物質循環研究分野、8. 東京工業大学理学院地球惑星科学系

1. Frontier Research Center for Energy and Resources, Graduate School of Engineering, University of Tokyo, 2. Department of Systems Innovation, School of Engineering, University of Tokyo, 3. Ocean Resources Research Center for Next Generation, Chiba Institute of Technology, 4. Department of Resources and Environmental Engineering School of Creative Science and Engineering, Waseda University, 5. Research and Development Center for Submarine Resources, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 6. Department of Planetology, Graduate School of Science, Kobe University, 7. Geochemical Evolution Research Program, Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, 8. Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, School of Science, Tokyo Institute of Technology

Since the discovery of deep-sea sediment extremely enriched in rare-earth elements and yttrium (REY) within the Japanese Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) around Minamitorishima Island, we have conducted a variety of researches on the REY-rich mud such as geochemical and statistical analyses, careful investigation of sub-bottom profiling data, and experiments of a mineral processing technique, toward a near-future development of the new and highly promising resource for the industrially critical elements. Our findings are bringing the seafloor mineral resources, which are merely an object of “scientific research” so far, to a realistic target of “commercial development” for the first time in the human being’s history. Moreover, we also investigate the spatial distribution of REY-rich mud in an oceanwide scale and its controlling factor(s) from a perspective of Earth system dynamics. In the presentation, we report a general overview of the latest research results on REY-rich mud.

キーワード：海底鉱物資源、レアアース、レアアース泥、南鳥島、太平洋、深海堆積物

Keywords: seafloor mineral resources, rare-earth elements, REY-rich mud, Minamitorishima Island, Pacific Ocean, deep-sea sediment