

Distribution of the pinas forests including a *Cryptomeria japonica* and its environmental factors in Echigo mountain range.

*Masatsugu YASUDA¹

1. Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.

Natural cedar grows in the area of southeastern part of Aizu area to Higashi Kanbara gun.

This cedar is known as the real name *Cryptomeria japonica* or Sanjo Sugi, a famous cultivar called Sugi or Sanjo Sugi. On a gentle slope it forms a forest that intermixes with beech and on the ridge it forms a mixed forest with the Chitose or *Pinus densiflora*.

Forests mixed with sugi and beech are recognized on the Sea of Japan side mainly in Akita prefecture (2018 Echigo valley), whereas forests mixed with sugi and Kitakagoyo or *Pinus densiflora* are not well recognized in other areas, .

Regarding vegetation in this area Matsuura (2010) says, "The most characteristic of vegetation in this area is avalanche vegetation consisting of shrub forests and grasslands formed by frequent avalanche due to heavy snow. The upper slope of the ridge An avalanche vegetation in a shrub forest from both sides, formed as a result of snow accumulation as a pine forest (Mainly for Kita gobo and Mixed *Pinus densiflora* in a low altitude) on a Yase ridge remains linear (Mohegan cut) It shows that it is vegetation.

By the way, the author made a survey in this area around the autumn of last year, and found that the pine forest including this cedar has relevance to snow accumulation gradient. In addition, from the viewpoint of the combination of plants, that is, from the viewpoint of plant sociology, it was also found to be strongly related to "Crobe - Kita - gobay Forest" distributed in the sub - alpine region of Japan.

We analyze these relationships, that is, the plant sociological features and the geographical relevance of the environment such as snow cover by using existing vegetation survey database and mesh climate value and report the results.

Keywords: Natural *Cryptomeria japonica*, Echigo mountain range, Mt. Mikagura, Snow coverage, Phytosociology, Vegetation survey database

