

A MORPHOMETRIC ANALYSIS OF THE JAPANESE MACAQUE (*MACACA FUSCATA*) TEETH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, JAPAN

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The purpose of this study is to explore the geographical and temporal variations in morphometrics of teeth in Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata*). We compared buccolingual size and proportion of mandibular premolar and molars among archaeological (from 11 sites) and modern specimens (from 7 localities in Honshu and Kyushu islands).

The archaeological specimens from Kanagawa, Fukui, Nagano Prefectures (Honshu) were relatively larger compared to the modern specimens, while the size of archaeological specimens from Kagoshima Prefecture (Kyushu), was within the range of modern specimens of Oita Prefecture (Kyushu). The archaeological specimens of Chiba Prefecture (Honshu) show significantly large variation between the sites but their size fall within the range of modern specimens. The results may indicate a possibility of the invasions of different lineages of macaques from Asian continent to the Japanese Archipelago since the last glacial period.

Keywords: Japanese macaque, *Macaca fuscata*, size variation, mandibular teeth