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# Late Holocene uplift of the Izu Islands on the northern Zenisu Ridge off Central Japan

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## Abstract

To clarify the Holocene uplift history of the Izu Islands, Japan, we analyze the elevations and <sup>14</sup>C ages of emerged sessile assemblages measured by accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) on the islands of Niijima, Jinaijima, Shikinejima, and Kouzushima, on the northern Zenisu Ridge. The results suggest that uplift events took place after AD 1950 (uplift event 1), during AD 786–1891 (uplift event 2), during AD 600–1165 (uplift event 3), and during AD 161–686 (uplift event 4), although uplift events 3 and 4 are identified only at Kouzushima. The minimum amount of uplift was estimated to be 0.4–0.9 m in uplift event 1, 2.4–2.7 m in uplift event 2, 3.6 m in uplift event 3, and 3.3–8.1 m in uplift event 4. These events could have been caused by volcanic activity or strong earthquakes. There also remains the possibility that uplift event 2 was caused by the AD 1498 Meio earthquake; in contrast to the previous interpretation, the ages of uplift events are significantly older than the earthquake, based on conventional (non-AMS) methods.

**Keywords:** Emerged marine sessile assemblage, <sup>14</sup>C date, Holocene, Niijima, Shikinejima, Kouzushima

## Introduction

Fukutomi (1935, 1938) discovered emerged sessile assemblages on Shikinejima and Jinaijima within the Izu Islands and in southern Izu Peninsula, Central Japan (Figs. 1 and 2). He suggested that these assemblages provided evidence of coseismic uplift associated with the AD 1703 great Kanto (Genroku) earthquake (Fig. 1), although the ages of the assemblages were not obtained. On the other hand, Hatori (1975) and Aida (1981) interpreted the same assemblages as evidence of the AD 1498 Meio earthquake (M 8.2–8.4) (Fig. 1). These authors suggested that the tsunami believed to have been associated with the Meio earthquake affected coastal regions from Kii Peninsula to Boso Peninsula, Central Japan (Fig. 1b) and hypothesized that the rupture area included the western and eastern Tōnankai segments (C and D in Fig. 1a, respectively) and the area south of Izu Peninsula.

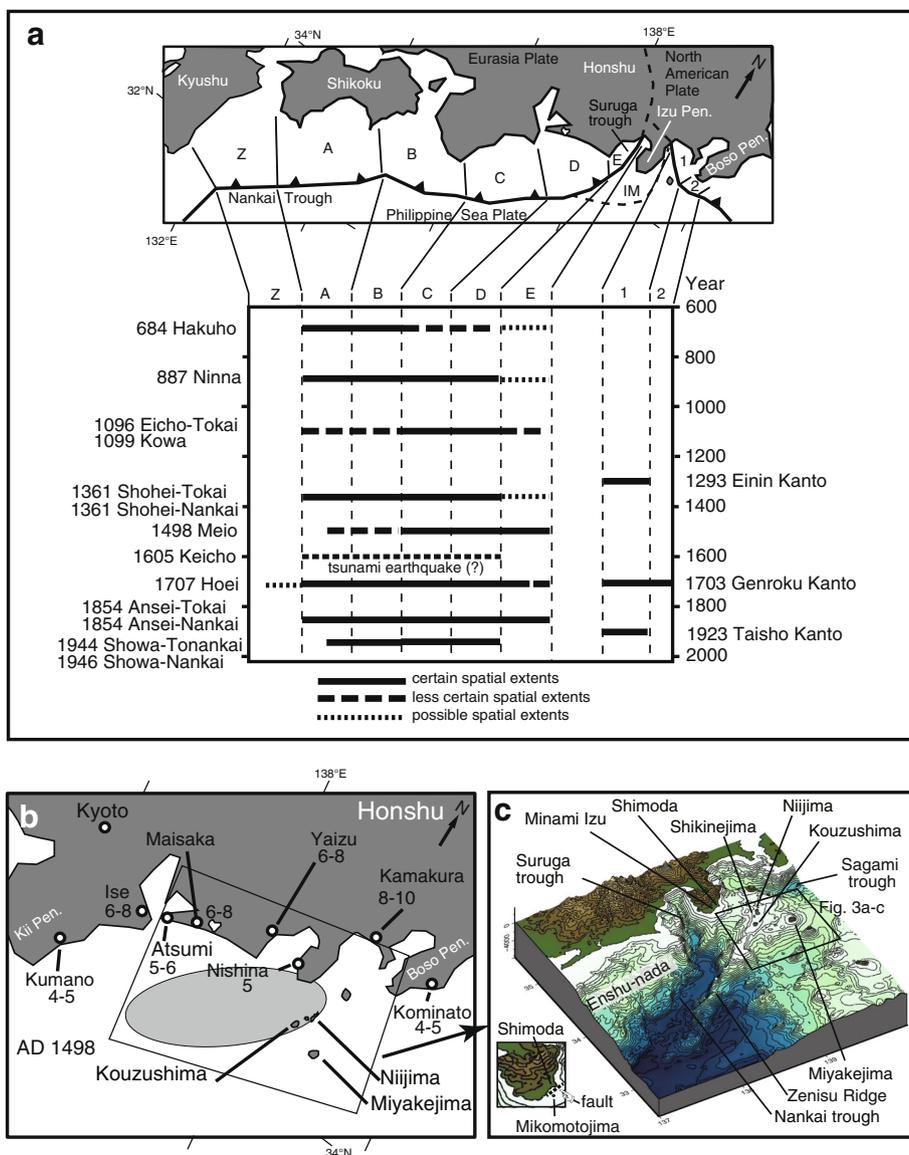
Ota et al. (1983, 1986) determined the <sup>14</sup>C ages of emerged assemblages from the southern coast of Izu Peninsula and Shikinejima (Fig. 2; Table 1), and demonstrated that the ages obtained were inconsistent with the hypotheses of Fukutomi (1935, 1938), Hatori (1975), and Aida (1981). However, these ages were not calibrated. Kitamura et al. (2016) examined the faunal compositions and accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) <sup>14</sup>C ages of emerged sessile assemblages in the southern part of Izu Peninsula and concluded that coseismic uplift occurred in the periods 1256–950 BC, 1000–1270 AD, 1430–1660 AD, and 1506–1815 AD. Kitamura et al. (2015) found no evidence of Holocene coseismic uplift at Mikomotojima, a small island located 10 km off the coast of Shimoda and inferred that the source fault for the uplift events was a reverse fault located ~3 km offshore from southern Izu Peninsula (Fig. 1c). On the other hand, AMS <sup>14</sup>C ages have yet to be determined for the emerged sessile assemblages on Shikinejima. In addition, we know of no published studies of emerged sessile assemblages on Niijima or Kouzushima. Thus, the present study examines Holocene crustal movements on the islands of Shikinejima, Niijima, and

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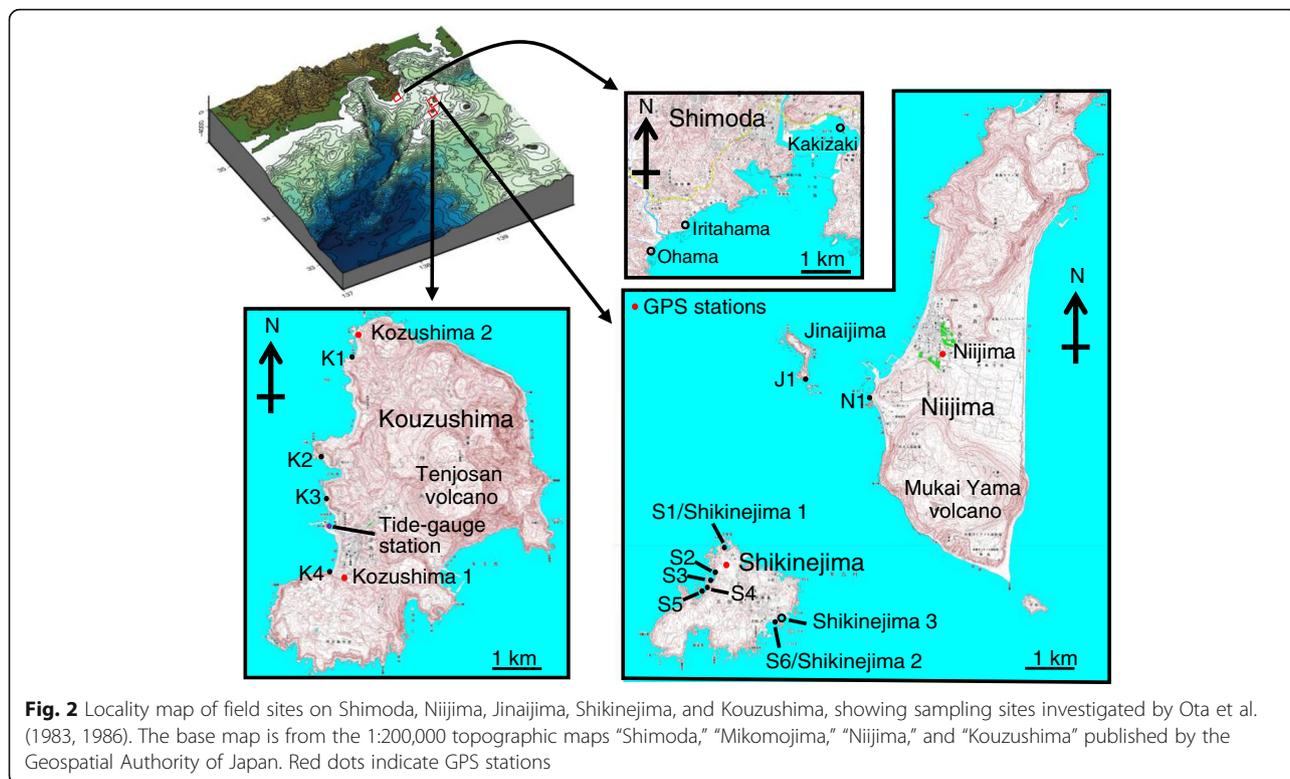
**Fig. 1** **a** Spatio-temporal distribution of great earthquakes along the Nankai, Suruga, and Sagami troughs (Ando 1975; Ishibashi and Satake 1998; Shishikura 2014). Individual fault segments are labeled A–E and Z; 1 indicates the Sagami Bay segment and 2 denotes the South Boso segment. The boundary of the Izu microplate (IM) is after Nishimura et al. (2007). **b** Distribution of inundation heights for the Meio earthquake, as determined by Hatori (1975). The hatched area indicates the source area of the Meio earthquake (Hatori 1975). **c** Map of the study area and Zenisu Ridge. The submarine fault between Shimoda and Mikomotojima is after Kitamura et al. (2015)

Kouzushima, using elevation data and AMS <sup>14</sup>C dating of emerged marine sessile assemblages.

**Study area**

Niijima, Jinaijima, Shikinejima, and Kouzushima are located along the northern part of the Zenisu Ridge on the northern Philippine Sea Plate (Fig. 1). The Zenisu Ridge is a topographic high composed of oceanic crust (Le Pichon et al. 1987; Chamot-Rooke and Le Pichon 1989; Ishihara 1989; Lallemand et al.

1989; Nakanishi et al. 1994; Fig. 1). Using regional kinematic models, Mazzotti et al. (1999, 2001) examined the movement of crustal blocks around Central Japan and identified three blocks: the Philippine Sea Plate, Central Japan, and the Zenisu–West Izu block. Sagiya (1999) and Nishimura et al. (2007) refer to the Zenisu–West Izu block as the Izu microplate (Fig. 1). A subduction thrust occurs offshore from the Tokai area along the southern edge of the microplate (Nakanishi et al. 1994). The eastern boundary of the



microplate consists of a sinistral strike-slip fault zone (Mazzotti et al. 1999, 2001) that is located less than 10 km west of Shikinejima (Nishimura et al. 2007).

Niijima, Jinaijima, Shikinejima, and Kouzushima consist mainly of Quaternary volcanic rocks (Isshiki 1987). Historical documents reveal that Mukaiyama volcano on Niijima and Tenjosan volcano on Kouzushima (Fig. 2) erupted in AD 886 and AD 838, respectively (Isshiki

1987). Togashi (1984) suggested that volcanic activity also occurred about 230 years before the AD 838 Kouzushima eruption.

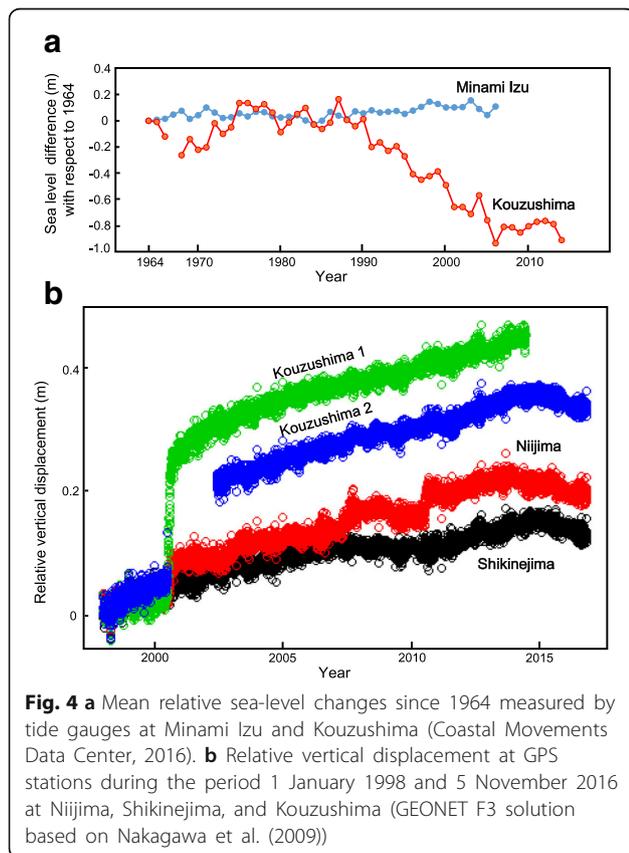
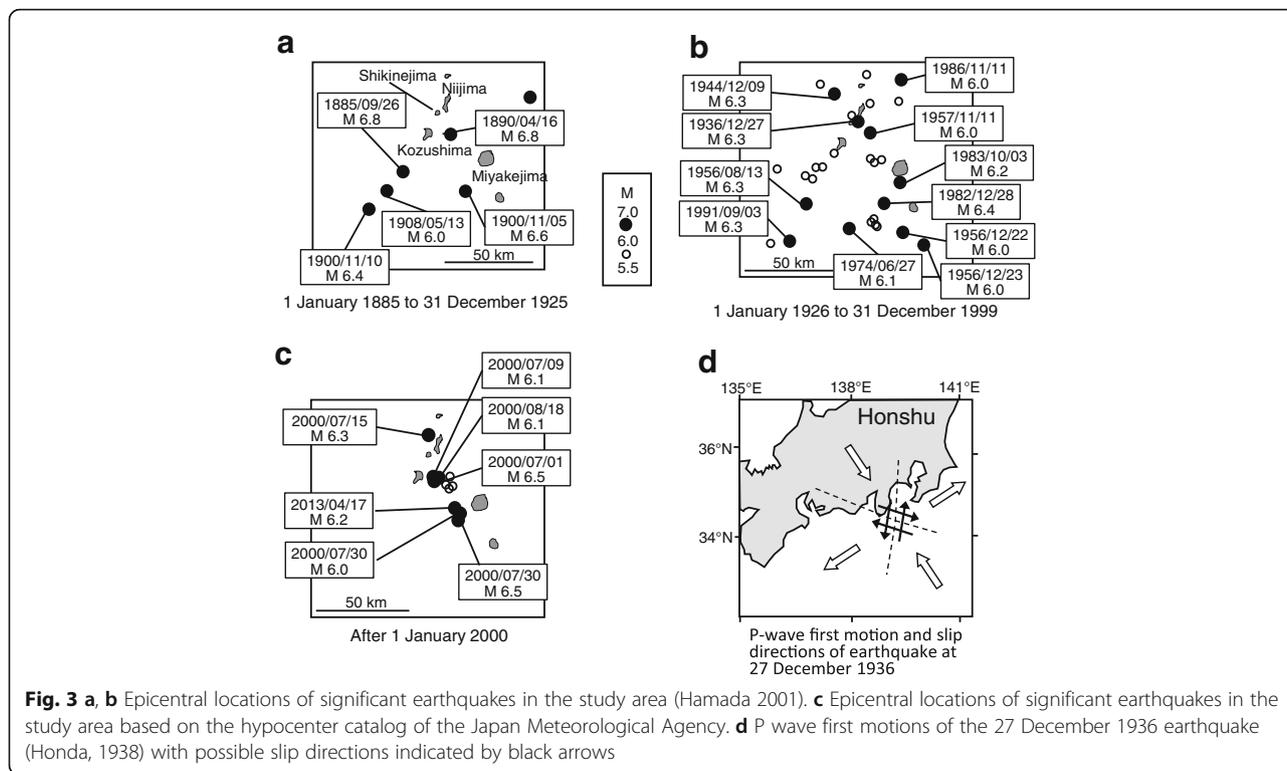
Earthquakes in AD 1890 (M 6.8) and 1936 (M 6.3) damaged Shikinejima and Niijima, respectively (Hagiwara and Omote 1936; Honda 1938; Hamada 2001), with epicenters located approximately 14 km and 1 km south of Niijima Island, respectively (Hamada 2001; Fig. 3). The focal mechanisms of both earthquakes (Honda 1938) indicate strike-slip motion (Fig. 3d).

Recent crustal movements in the study area have been inferred from tide gauge and Global Positioning System (GPS) data. Tide-gauge data indicate about 0.9 m of uplift of Kouzushima Island between 1990 and 2014 (Coastal Movements Data Center, 2016; Fig. 4a). GPS time-series data of the F3 solution (Nakagawa et al. 2009) of GEONET, provided by the Geospatial Information Authority of Japan, reveal that Shikinejima and Niijima are being uplifted at a mean rate of 1.0 cm/year since 1998 (Fig. 4b). This uplift is related to a pressure source located beneath northeastern Kouzushima (Kimata et al. 2000) and dike intrusion associated with the AD 2000 eruption of Miyakejima volcano, southeast of Kouzushima (Fig. 2) (Murakami et al. 2001; Nishimura et al. 2001; Yamaoka et al. 2005).

The coastlines in the study area are characterized by a wave-dominated and microtidal regime, with a maximum tidal range of 1.6 m during spring tides. In this

**Table 1** <sup>14</sup>C dates reported by Ota et al. (1983, 1986). Area and sampling points are shown in Fig. 2

Area/sampling points	Materials	<sup>14</sup> C age (years BP)	Sample height (m)
Ohama	<i>Chthamalus</i> sp.	2650 ± 80	2.3–2.7
Ohama	<i>Saccostrea echinata</i>	2830 ± 90	2.3–2.7
Ohama	<i>Saccostrea echinata</i>	670 ± 75	1.1
Ohama	<i>Saccostrea echinata</i>	645 ± 80	0.9
Iritahama	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	950 ± 90	1.45–2.15
Kakizaki	<i>Saccostrea echinata</i>	1280 ± 75	1.6
Kakizaki	<i>Saccostrea echinata</i>	1540 ± 65	1.6
Shikinejima 1	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1980 ± 130	3.2–3.6
Shikinejima 1	<i>Megabalanus rosa</i>	1830 ± 130	3.0–3.1
Shikinejima 1	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1350 ± 100	2.6
Shikinejima 1	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	2540 ± 290	2.6
Shikinejima 2	<i>Tetraclita japonica</i>	1010 ± 300	4.2
Shikinejima 3	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1530 ± 100	3.9–5.1



study, the intertidal zone ranges between  $-0.8$  and  $0.8$  m above mean sea level (amsl).

### Methods/Experimental

This study examines emerged marine sessile assemblages at one site on Nijijima, one site on Jinaijima, six sites on Shikinejima, and four sites on Kouzushima (Fig. 2). At each site, we collected several samples of well-preserved barnacles, bivalves, Serpulidae, and corals. Before the specimens were identified, each was cleaned with a micro-knife and organic matter was removed using hydrochloric acid. The coral samples were analyzed by X-ray photography and X-ray diffraction. Radiocarbon dating was performed by accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) at the University of Tokyo, Japan (Yokoyama et al. 2016). Radiocarbon ages were then translated into calendar time scales using the program OxCal 4.3 (Bronk Ramsey 1995; Bronk Ramsey and Lee 2013), based on comparisons with Marine 13 data (Reimer et al. 2013). A local correction of  $\Delta R = 109 \pm 60$  calculated for Shimoda, 42 km northwest of Shikinejima (Yoneda et al. 2000), was applied to all data. We also observed the upper limit of living hermatypic coral, *Saccostrea kegaki* and *Crassostrea gigas* oysters, *Tetractitella chinensis* barnacles, and *Pomatoleios kraussii* tubeworms where we collected the emerged specimens. Since these species occur in high densities, reliable data were easily obtained.

**Results**

**Site descriptions and <sup>14</sup>C dating**

**Niijima**

At site N1, we collected in situ specimens of abraded *Saccostrea kegaki* at 0.0–0.7 m amsl and in situ samples of fresh *Crassostrea gigas* at 0.3–0.9 m amsl (Figs. 2 and 5). We observed the burial of these specimens by sand on 22 September 2014. Although two specimens of *S. kegaki* fall within the age range of AD 1816 to present, all other samples represent modern specimens (Table 2). The upper limit of living *S. kegaki* is +0.4 m amsl, while living specimens of *C. gigas* could not be found.

**Jinaijima**

Jinaijima is a small island located 2 km west of Niijima Island (Fig. 2). We collected encrusting masses of *Pomatoleios kraussii* tubeworms at 0.6 m amsl at site J1, which is located on bedrock on the east side of the Island (Figs. 2 and 6). The encrusting masses are up to 4 cm thick and lack any observable layered structure. <sup>14</sup>C dating of the surface (J11) and innermost part (J12) of the masses yields ranges of AD 1724 to present and AD 1727 to present, respectively (Table 2). Encrusting masses of living *P. kraussii* could not be found.

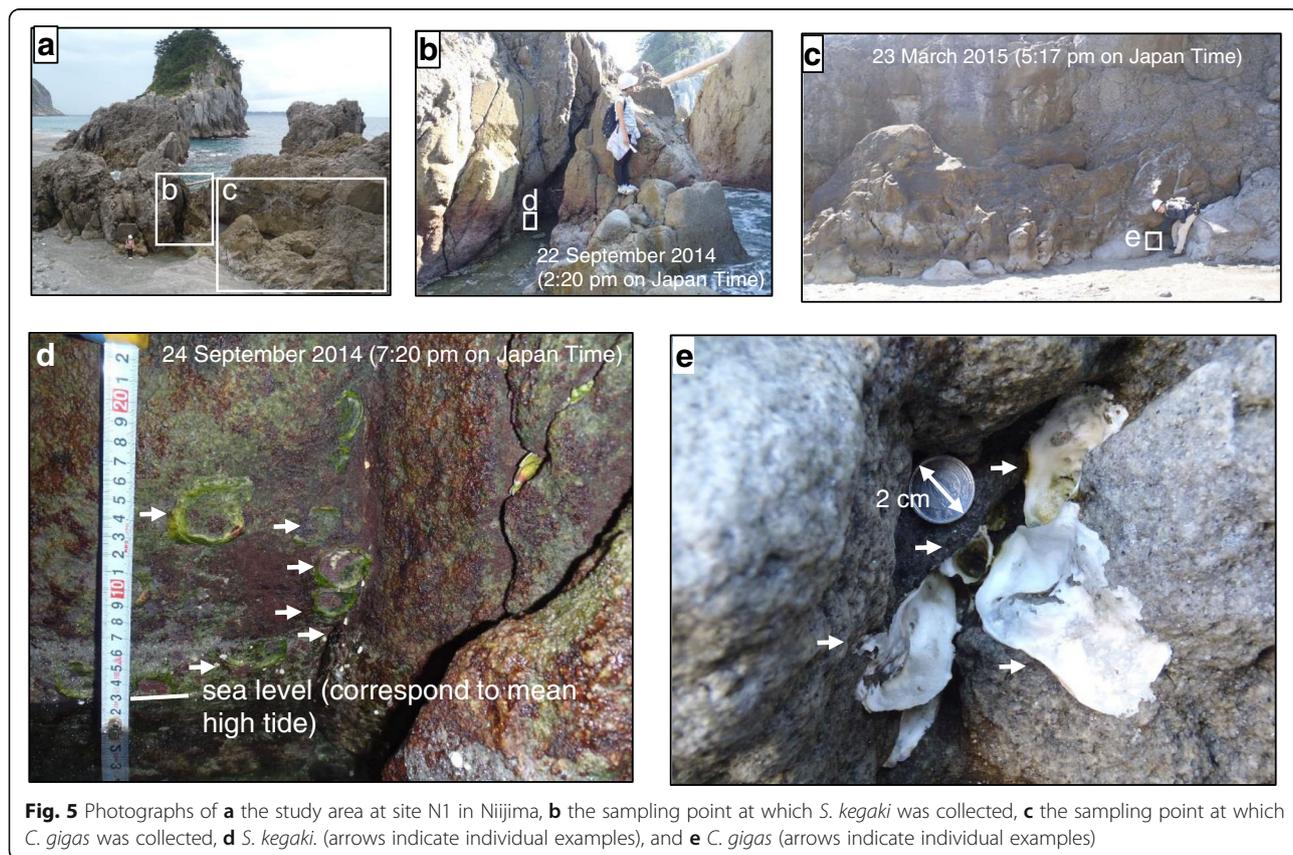
**Shikinejima**

Site S1 is a cave located in a cliff south of Tomari Port (Figs. 2 and 7a). The cave is 1 m wide, 10 m high, and 4 m long. Inside the cave, we collected many well-preserved individual samples of the barnacle *Tetraclitella chinensis* (Fig. 7b) and in situ samples of the bivalve *Cardita leana* at elevations of 2.6–4.0 m amsl (Fig. 7c). <sup>14</sup>C dates of all specimens range from AD 1006 to 1891 (Table 2). Ota et al. (1983) previously collected uplifted sessile assemblages from this site and obtained non-calibrated <sup>14</sup>C ages of 1980 ± 130 years BP and 1350 ± 100 years BP for specimens found at elevations of 3.2–3.6 and 2.6 m amsl, respectively (Table 1). We observed that the upper limit of living *T. chinensis* is about +0.8 m amsl.

Site S2 is located on bedrock on the east side of Oura Bay, at about +3.0 m amsl (Fig. 2). The <sup>14</sup>C age of well-preserved *C. leana* is AD 988–1268 (Table 2).

Site S3 is located on bedrock on the west side of Oura Bay, at about +2.3 m amsl (Fig. 2). This site yielded many well-preserved examples of *T. chinensis* that yielded <sup>14</sup>C dates in the range AD 1216–1505.

Site S4 is located on bedrock on the east side of Nakamura Bay, at approximately –0.1 m amsl (Figs. 2 and 8a). This site yielded three in situ colonial zooxanthellate scleractinian corals of *Cyphastrea serailia* (Fig. 8b), which were 100% aragonite and therefore not susceptible to diagenesis.



**Fig. 5** Photographs of **a** the study area at site N1 in Niijima, **b** the sampling point at which *S. kegaki* was collected, **c** the sampling point at which *C. gigas* was collected, **d** *S. kegaki*. (arrows indicate individual examples), and **e** *C. gigas* (arrows indicate individual examples)

**Table 2** Results of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating in the present study

Sample name	Locality	Site	Laboratory number (YAUT-)	Coordinates (lat/long)	Height (m)	Upper-growth limit (m)	Materials	Conventional $^{14}\text{C}$ age (years BP)	Calibrated age (2 $\sigma$ )	Groups	Total minimum uplift (m)
N1	Niijima	N1	14905	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.7	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	407 ± 32	Cal AD 1816–1950	A	0.3 (–0.1)
N2	Niijima	N1	14906	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.6	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	294 ± 32	Cal AD 1847–1950	A	0.2 (–0.2)
N3	Niijima	N1	14907	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.6	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–70 ± 37	Cal AD 1885–1950	A	0.2 (–0.3)
N4	Niijima	N1	14908	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.5	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–387 ± 34	Modern	A	0.1 (–0.3)
N5	Niijima	N1	14909	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.3	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–686 ± 44	Modern	A	–0.1 (–0.5)
N6	Niijima	N1	14910	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.3	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–687 ± 46	Modern	A	–0.1 (–0.5)
N7	Niijima	N1	14911	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.2	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–595 ± 34	Modern	A	–0.2 (–0.6)
N8	Niijima	N1	14912	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.1	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–720 ± 48	Modern	A	–0.3 (–0.7)
N9	Niijima	N1	14913	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.1	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–789 ± 54	Modern	A	–0.3 (–0.7)
N10	Niijima	N1	14917	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.1	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	–815 ± 56	Modern	A	–0.3 (–0.7)
N11	Niijima	N1	14918	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.9	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	–1157 ± 64	Modern	A	0.5 (0.1)
N12	Niijima	N1	14919	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.9	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	–1088 ± 42	Modern	A	0.5 (0.1)
N13	Niijima	N1	14920	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.9	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	–1151 ± 41	Modern	A	0.5 (0.1)
N14	Niijima	N1	14921	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.9	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	–1171 ± 46	Modern	A	0.5 (0.1)
N15	Niijima	N1	14922	34.21499° 139.14331°	0.7	0.4 (0.8)	<i>Crassostrea gigas</i>	–1209 ± 57	Modern	A	0.3 (–0.1)
J11	Jinaijima	J1	18537	34.22027° 139.13431°	0.6	0.2	<i>Pomatoleios kraussii</i>	482 ± 43	Cal AD 1724–1950	A	0.4
J12	Jinaijima	J1	18538	34.22027° 139.13431°	0.6	0.2	<i>Pomatoleios kraussii</i>	459 ± 35	Cal AD 1726–1950	A	0.4
TMR1	Shikinejima	S1	9905	34.20119° 139.12376°	4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1243 ± 29	Cal AD 1139–1391	B	3.2
TMR2	Shikinejima	S1	14923	34.20119° 139.12376°	4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	955 ± 64	Cal AD 1335–1650	B	3.2
TMR3	Shikinejima	S1	9906	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.8	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1270 ± 35	Cal AD 1085–1333	B	3
TMR4	Shikinejima	S1	14924	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.8	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1006 ± 60	Cal AD 1302–1615	B	3
TMR5	Shikinejima	S1	9907	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.6	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	859 ± 43	Cal AD 1460–1670	B	2.8

**Table 2** Results of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating in the present study (*Continued*)

Sample name	Locality	Site	Laboratory number (YAUT-)	Coordinates (lat/long)	Height (m)	Upper-growth limit (m)	Materials	Conventional $^{14}\text{C}$ age (years BP)	Calibrated age (2 $\sigma$ )	Groups	Total minimum uplift (m)
TMR6	Shikinejima	S1	14925	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.6	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1265 ± 37	Cal AD 1069–1380	B	2.8
TMR7	Shikinejima	S1	9908	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1051 ± 41	Cal AD 1308–1487	B	2.6
TMR8	Shikinejima	S1	14926	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	837 ± 70	Cal AD 1431–1804	B	2.6
TMR9	Shikinejima	S1	9909	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.2	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	844 ± 34	Cal AD 1468–1678	B	2.4
TMR10	Shikinejima	S1	14930	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.2	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1319 ± 36	Cal AD 1048–1305	B	2.4
TMR11	Shikinejima	S1	9910	34.20119° 139.12376°	3	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	904 ± 40	Cal AD 1436–1651	B	2.2
TMR12	Shikinejima	S1	14931	34.20119° 139.12376°	3	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1117 ± 47	Cal AD 1245–1469	B	2.2
TMR13	Shikinejima	S1	9911	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.7	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	721 ± 34	Cal AD 1539–1872	B	1.9
TMR14	Shikinejima	S1	14932	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.7	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	774 ± 43	Cal AD 1483–1821	B	1.9
TMR15	Shikinejima	S1	9912	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.7	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	1070 ± 41	Cal AD 1300–1473	B	2.3
TMR16	Shikinejima	S1	14933	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.7	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	1378 ± 38	Cal AD 1006–1280	B	2.3
OUR22	Shikinejima	S2	9917	34.19534° 139.12305°	3	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	1399 ± 35	Cal AD 1002–1252	B	2.6
OUR31	Shikinejima	S3	9918	34.19486° 139.12267°	2.3	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1049 ± 36	Cal AD 1309–1489	B	1.5
OUR32	Shikinejima	S3	9919	34.19486° 139.12267°	2.3	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1152 ± 46	Cal AD 1216–1452	B	1.5
NNU41	Shikinejima	S4	9920	34.19420° 139.12238°	−0.1	−0.5	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	375 ± 40	Cal AD 1842–1950	A	0.4
NNU42	Shikinejima	S4	9921	34.19420° 139.12238°	−0.1	−0.5	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	215 ± 34	Cal AD 1875–1950	A	0.4
NNU43	Shikinejima	S4	9922	34.19420° 139.12238°	−0.1	−0.5	<i>Cyphastrea serailia</i>	302 ± 37	Cal AD 1857–1950	A	0.4
NNU51	Shikinejima	S5	9923	34.19416° 139.12198°	1.4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	275 ± 29	Cal AD 1862–1950	A	0.6

**Table 2** Results of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating in the present study (*Continued*)

Sample name	Locality	Site	Laboratory number (YAUT-)	Coordinates (lat/long)	Height (m)	Upper-growth limit (m)	Materials	Conventional $^{14}\text{C}$ age (years BP)	Calibrated age (2 $\sigma$ )	Groups	Total minimum uplift (m)
NNU51	Shikinejima	S5	14936	34.19416° 139.12198°	1.4	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	539 ± 41	Cal AD 1720–1950	A	0.6
ISZ61	Shikinejima	S6	9924	34.19196° 139.13216°	3.7	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	1260 ± 38	Cal AD 1090–1346	B	3.3
K111	Kozujima	K1	18504	34.14110° 139.08083°	0.54	0.4	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	–796 ± 41	modern	A	0.14
K112	Kozujima	K1	18505	34.14110° 139.08083°	0.64	0.8	Serpulidae sp.	439 ± 29	Cal AD 1766–1950	A	–0.16
K113	Kozujima	K1	18506	34.14110° 139.08083°	0.99	0.4	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	472 ± 27	Cal AD 1727–1950	A	0.59
K114	Kozujima	K1	18507	34.14110° 139.08083°	1.36	0.4	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	486 ± 39	Cal AD 1724–1950	A	0.96
K121	Kozujima	K1	18509	34.14110° 139.08083°	2.42	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1227 ± 34	Cal AD 1140–1410	B	1.62
K122	Kozujima	K1	18511	34.14110° 139.08083°	2.98	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1280 ± 30	Cal AD 1066–1331	B	2.18
K123	Kozujima	K1	18512	34.14110° 139.08083°	3.28	0	<i>Tubastraea coccinea</i>	1414 ± 28	Cal AD 975–1255	B	3.28
K131	Kozujima	K1	18513	34.14110° 139.08083°	4.36	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1626 ± 45	Cal AD 716–1031	C	3.56
K132	Kozujima	K1	18514	34.14110° 139.08083°	4.91	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1663 ± 57	Cal AD 682–1015	C	4.11
K133	Kozujima	K1	18517	34.14110° 139.08083°	5.58	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1594 ± 42	Cal AD 735–1053	C	4.78
K141	Kozujima	K1	18518	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.2	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus</i> sp.	1725 ± 42	Cal AD 647–956	C	5.4
K142	Kozujima	K1	18519	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.91	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1663 ± 33	Cal AD 696–993	C	6.11
K143	Kozujima	K1	18521	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.91	0	<i>Tubastraea coccinea</i>	1568 ± 29	Cal AD 775–1073	C	6.91
K1441	Kozujima	K1	18523	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.61	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1503 ± 32	Cal AD 843–1173	C	5.81
K1442	Kozujima	K1	22004	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.61	0	<i>Chama iostoma</i>	1639 ± 33	Cal AD 715–1015	C	6.61
K145	Kozujima	K1	18524	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.51	0.8	<i>Rhizotrochus typus</i>	1537 ± 51	Cal AD 786–1154	C	5.71
K146	Kozujima	K1	18525	34.14110° 139.08083°	6.51	0	<i>Tubastraea coccinea</i>	1779 ± 67	Cal AD 550–940	C	6.51
K211	Kozujima	K2	18526	34.13131° 139.07457°	9.43	0	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	1931 ± 33	Cal AD 426–700	D	9.43
K212	Kozujima	K2	22005	34.13131° 139.07457°	9.43	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	2085 ± 29	Cal AD 250–585	D	9.03
K213	Kozujima	K2	22006	34.13131° 139.07457°	9.43	0.8	<i>Lithophaga curta</i>	2035 ± 36	Cal AD 305–641	D	8.63
K214	Kozujima	K2	22007	34.13131° 139.07457°	9.43	0	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	1982 ± 25	Cal AD 395–665	D	9.43

**Table 2** Results of  $^{14}\text{C}$  dating in the present study (Continued)

Sample name	Locality	Site	Laboratory number (YAUT-)	Coordinates (lat/long)	Height (m)	Upper-growth limit (m)	Materials	Conventional $^{14}\text{C}$ age (years BP)	Calibrated age (2 $\sigma$ )	Groups	Total minimum uplift (m)
K215	Kozujima	K2	22009	34.13131° 139.07457°	9.43	-0.4	<i>Vermetus tokyoensis</i>	2107 ± 35	Cal AD 218–572	D	9.83
K22	Kozujima	K2	18527	34.13131° 139.07457°	11.43	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	2156 ± 47	Cal AD 142–528	D	11.03
K31	Kozujima	K3	18531	34.12475° 139.07517°	2.09	0.8	Serpulidae sp.	1301 ± 35	Cal AD 1056–1316	B	1.29
K321	Kozujima	K3	18532	34.12475° 139.07517°	2.45	0.4	<i>Cardita leana</i>	1789 ± 40	Cal AD 580–885	C	2.05
K322	Kozujima	K3	22011	34.12475° 139.07517°	2.45	-0.4	<i>Vermetus tokyoensis</i>	1617 ± 39	Cal AD 726–1034	C	2.85
K323	Kozujima	K3	22012	34.12475° 139.07517°	2.45	0.8	<i>Lithophaga curta</i>	1553 ± 31	Cal AD 783–1100	C	1.65
K33	Kozujima	K3	22013	34.12475° 139.07517°	1.22	0.4	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	480 ± 32	Cal AD 1725–1950	A	0.82
K411	Kozujima	K4	18534	34.12462° 139.07516°	0.02	0.8	Serpulidae sp.	-816 ± 34	Modern	A	-0.78
K4121	Kozujima	K4	18536	34.12462° 139.07516°	0.32	0.8	Serpulidae sp.	-923 ± 46	Modern	A	-0.48
K4122	Kozujima	K4	22014	34.12462° 139.07516°	0.32	0.4	<i>Tetraclita</i> sp.	-1121 ± 23	Modern	A	0.32
K413	Kozujima	K4	18636	34.12462° 139.07516°	0.62	0.8	<i>Dendropoma planorbis</i>	530 ± 31	Cal AD 1723–1950	A	-0.18
K421	Kozujima	K4	18637	34.12462° 139.07516°	2.02	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensis</i>	1037 ± 28	Cal AD 1306–1511	B	1.22
K422	Kozujima	K4	18638	34.12462° 139.07516°	3.92	0.8	Serpulidae sp.	1755 ± 28	Cal AD 626–901	C	3.12
GaK-9718*	Shikinejima	1 (S1)	GaK-9718	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.2–3.6	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1980 ± 130			2.4–2.8
GaK-9717*	Shikinejima	1 (S1)	GaK-9717	34.20119° 139.12376°	3.0–3.1	0.8	<i>Megabalanus rosa</i>	1830 ± 130			2.2–2.3
GaK-9720*	Shikinejima	1 (S1)	GaK-9720	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.6	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1350 ± 100			1.8
GaK-9721*	Shikinejima	1 (S1)	GaK-9721	34.20119° 139.12376°	2.6	0.8	<i>Saccostrea kegaki</i>	2540 ± 290			1.8
GaK-9719*	Shikinejima	2	GaK-9719	34.19165° 139.13214°	4.2	0.8	<i>Tetraclita japonica</i>	1010 ± 300			3.4
GaK-9722*	Shikinejima	3	GaK-9722	34.19184° 139.13223°	3.9–5.1	0.8	<i>Tetraclitella chinensi</i>	1530 ± 100			3.1–4.3

\*Ota et al. (1983)

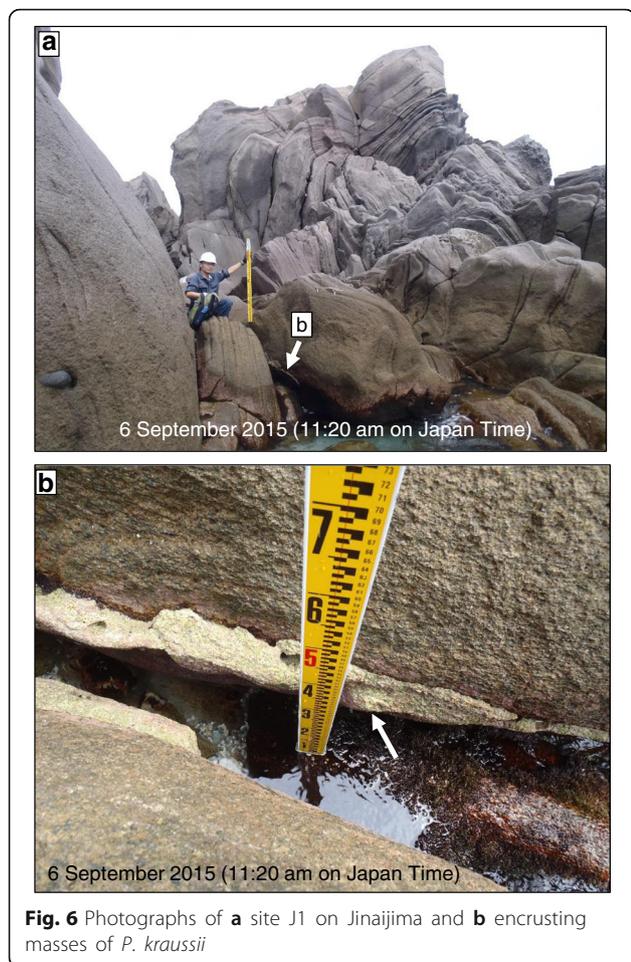
Their  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages exactly matched each other and ranged from AD 1820 to present (Table 2). Observations made while scuba diving indicate that living hermatypic corals at this site occupy water depths greater than 0.5 m.

Site S5 is a marine cave located in a cliff on the east side of Nakanoura Bay. The cave is 1.8 m wide, 3.0 m high, and 6.0 m long. We collected two well-preserved individual specimens of *T. chinensis* from inside the cave at an elevation of 1.8 m amsl. Their  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages fall within AD 1720 to present (Table 2).

Site S6 is located on bedrock on the Ishijirogawa coast, at about +3.7 m amsl. One specimen of *C. leana* was collected and yielded a  $^{14}\text{C}$  age of AD 1077–1385 (Table 2).

#### Kouzushima

Site K1 is located on the southern side of Nagumi Bay and is divided into four subsites (K11, K12, K13, and K14) (Figs. 2 and 9). Well-preserved individuals of *Tetraclita* sp., Serpulidae sp., and *T. chinensis* were observed at 0.5–3.0 m amsl on coastal bedrock at sites K11 and K12 (Table 2). We



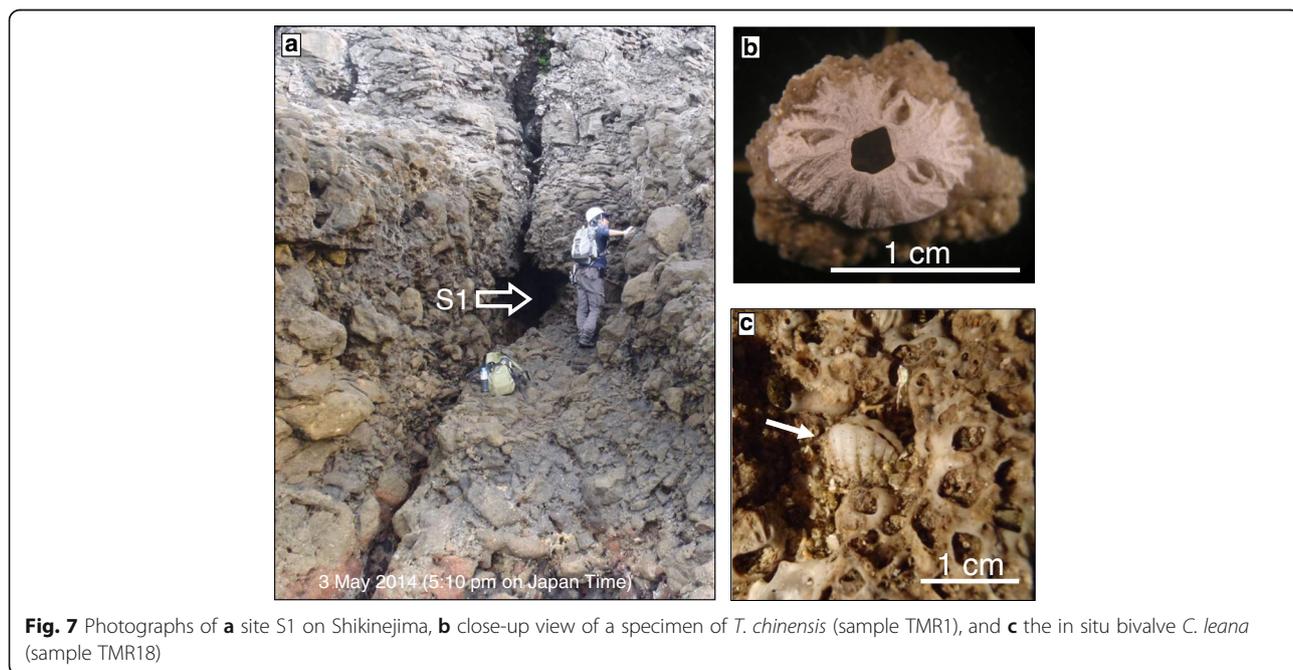
**Fig. 6** Photographs of **a** site J1 on Jinajima and **b** encrusting masses of *P. kraussii*

collected many well-preserved in situ azooxanthellate corals of *Tubastraea coccinea* and *Rhizotrochus typus* at 3.3–6.9 m amsl from sites K13 and K14 (Fig. 9; Table 2) but did not find intertidal organisms such as *T. chinensis* and *S. kegaki*. Although many studies of emerged Holocene marine fossils have been performed in Japan (e.g., Ishibashi et al. 1979; Ota et al. 1983; Kayanne et al. 1987; Maemoku 1988; Miyauchi 1990; Iryu et al. 2009; Kitamura et al. 2014, 2015, 2016, in press), no previous reports of the occurrence of *R. typus* are known to the authors. All of the coral specimens collected during the present study are 100% aragonite and therefore are not susceptible to subaerial diagenesis, because recrystallization of coral aragonite to calcite occurs in a subaerial setting (Sayani et al. 2011). The  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of specimens at this site range from AD 613 to present and become older with increasing elevation (Table 2).

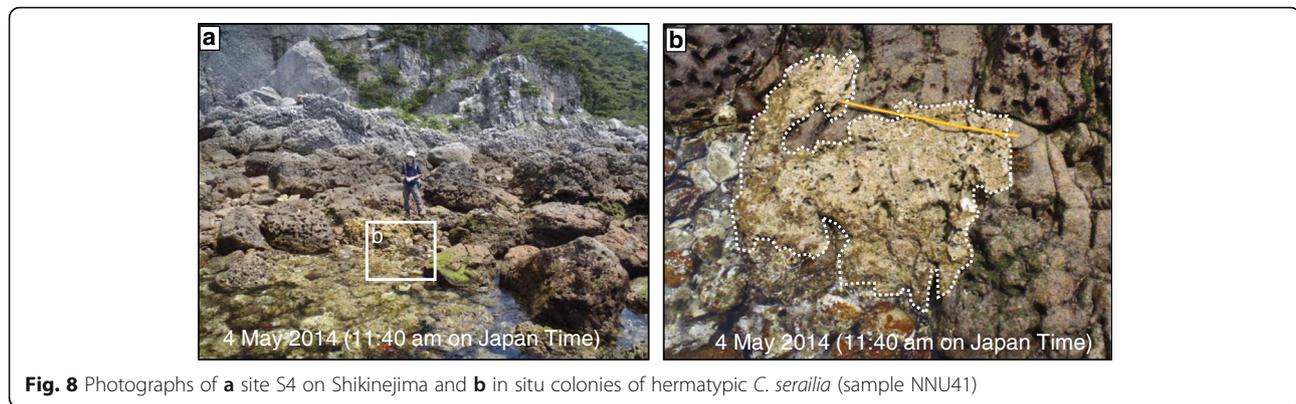
Site K2 is located at 9.4–11.4 m amsl on bedrock on the northwest side of Sawajiri Bay (Figs. 2 and 10). At this location, samples were taken at the highest elevation of any site. We collected well-preserved *Tetraclita* sp., *C. leana*, *Lithophaga curta*, and *Vermetus tokyoensis*. Their  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages fall within the range AD 161–686 (Table 2).

Site K3 is located on bedrock north of Kouzushima Harbor, at 1.2–2.5 m amsl (Fig. 2). Well-preserved Serpulidae sp., *C. leana*, *V. tokyoensis*, and *L. curta* were collected with  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages ranging from AD 600 to the present (Table 2).

Site K4 is located on bedrock south of Maehama (Fig. 2). This site yielded individuals of Serpulidae sp., *Tetraclita* sp., *Dendropoma planorbis*, and *T. chinensis* at 0–3.9 m amsl. The  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of the specimens range between AD 626 and the present day and become older with increasing elevation (Table 2).



**Fig. 7** Photographs of **a** site S1 on Shikinejima, **b** close-up view of a specimen of *T. chinensis* (sample TMR1), and **c** the in situ bivalve *C. leana* (sample TMR18)



**Fig. 8** Photographs of **a** site S4 on Shikinejima and **b** in situ colonies of hermatypic *C. serailia* (sample NNU41)

### Emerged sessile assemblages

Figure 11 shows the elevations and ages ( $2\sigma$ ) of emerged sessile assemblages from this study and from Ota et al. (1983). Rather than a simple linear trend, the data show stepwise changes in elevations at particular times, meaning that uplift occurred in a series of discrete events rather than as a gradual and continuous process. The mechanism of such uplift is a seismic event or relatively short-lived uplift associated with volcanic activity, such as the AD 2000 eruption of Miyakejima volcano (Fig. 4).

Based on these elevations and ages, the Shikinejima specimens cluster into two groups (A and B; Fig. 11 and Table 2). Group A occurs between  $-0.1$  and  $1.4$  m amsl at Shikinejima (sites S4 and S5), Nijijima (site N1), Jinaijima (site J1), and Kouzushima (sites K1, K3, and K4). The ages of the Group A specimens range from AD 1723 to present. Group B samples are defined as those taken at elevations above Group A and are located between  $2.0$  and  $4.0$  m amsl at Shikinejima (sites S1, S2, S3, and S6) and Kouzushima (sites K1, K3, and K4); they yield ages of AD 975–1872. Groups C and D are only found on Kouzushima (sites K1–4). Samples in Group C have elevations between those of Groups B and D. Although the elevations of four specimens (K321, K322, K323, and K422) fall within the range defined for Group B, their ages are consistent with other Group C samples, and thus, they are considered to belong to Group C. Groups C and D occur at elevations of  $2.45$ – $6.91$  m amsl and  $9.43$ – $11.43$  m amsl, respectively (Fig. 11), with no overlap in elevation. The corresponding age ranges for Groups C and D are AD 600–1165 and AD 161–686, respectively.

### Discussion

All of the collected specimens are more recent than AD 160 (Fig. 11). Since relative sea-level reconstructions show that sea level was likely stable at the study site during the past 2000 years (Sato 2008; Woodroffe et al. 2012; Yokoyama et al. 2012; Tanigawa et al. 2013; Tanabe et al. 2016), the occurrence of the emerged sessile assemblages cannot be explained by eustatic sea level changes; instead, it requires local crustal uplift.

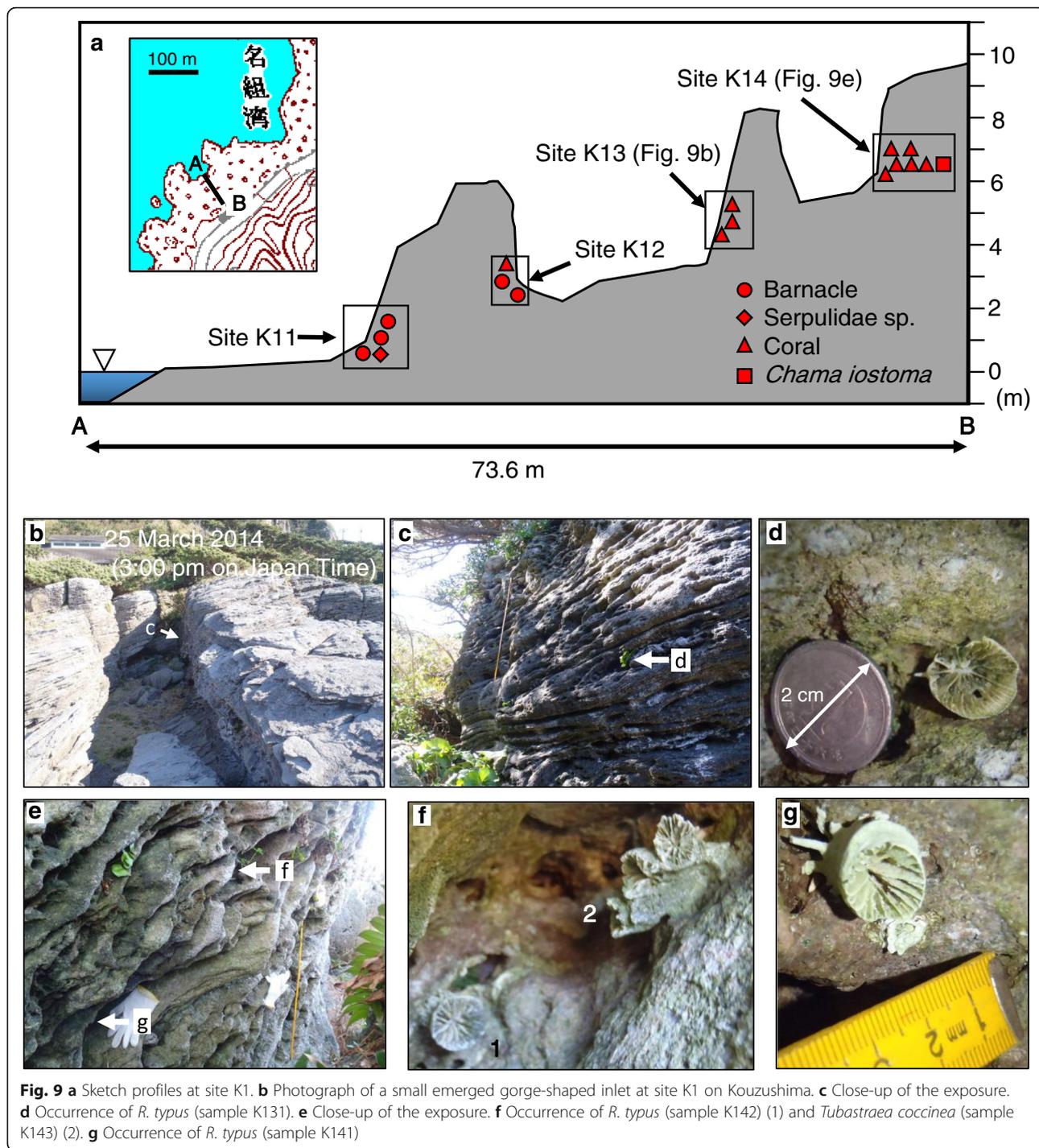
The magnitude of the uplift is best estimated by direct measurement of the elevational difference between the upper limit of the uplifted remains and the corresponding upper limit of its present homolog (Laborel and Laborel-Deguen 1994; Pirazzoli et al. 1999). Although the estimated values represent the minimum amount of uplift, this procedure eliminates uncertainties derived from estimates of the bathymetric ranges of each species. If this procedure was not applied, we would have to make a subjective decision about whether any individuals of a species lived higher than the collected specimens but were not preserved. We therefore make this assumption since there is no reliable way of resolving this ambiguity. This estimation method was also used by Pirazzoli et al. (1999), Kitamura et al. (2014, 2015, 2016), and Hamada et al. (2016).

Using the above procedure, we calculated the uplift amount of each specimen. As noted below, the maximum value of each group was derived for each island from specimens found at the highest position in the group. The estimated maximum uplift was regarded as rapid uplift, based on the following conceptual assumptions: (1) each group of emerged assemblages was created by a single uplift event or by gradual uplift over a finite period of time and (2) no vertical crustal motion occurred in the study area during the intervals between discrete uplift events. These assumptions mean that our definition of an uplift event includes both coseismic uplift and relatively short-lived uplift due to volcanic activity. The estimated minimum total amount of uplift for each specimen is shown in Table 2. The defining events of each of Groups A–D are referred to (in reverse chronological order) as uplift events 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively.

#### Uplift event 1

Group A consists of *C. gigas* and *S. kegaki* at Nijijima Island, *P. kraussii* at Jinaijima, *T. chinensis* and *C. serailia* at Shikinejima, and *D. planorbis*, Serpulidae sp., and *Tetraclita* sp. at Kouzushima (Table 2).

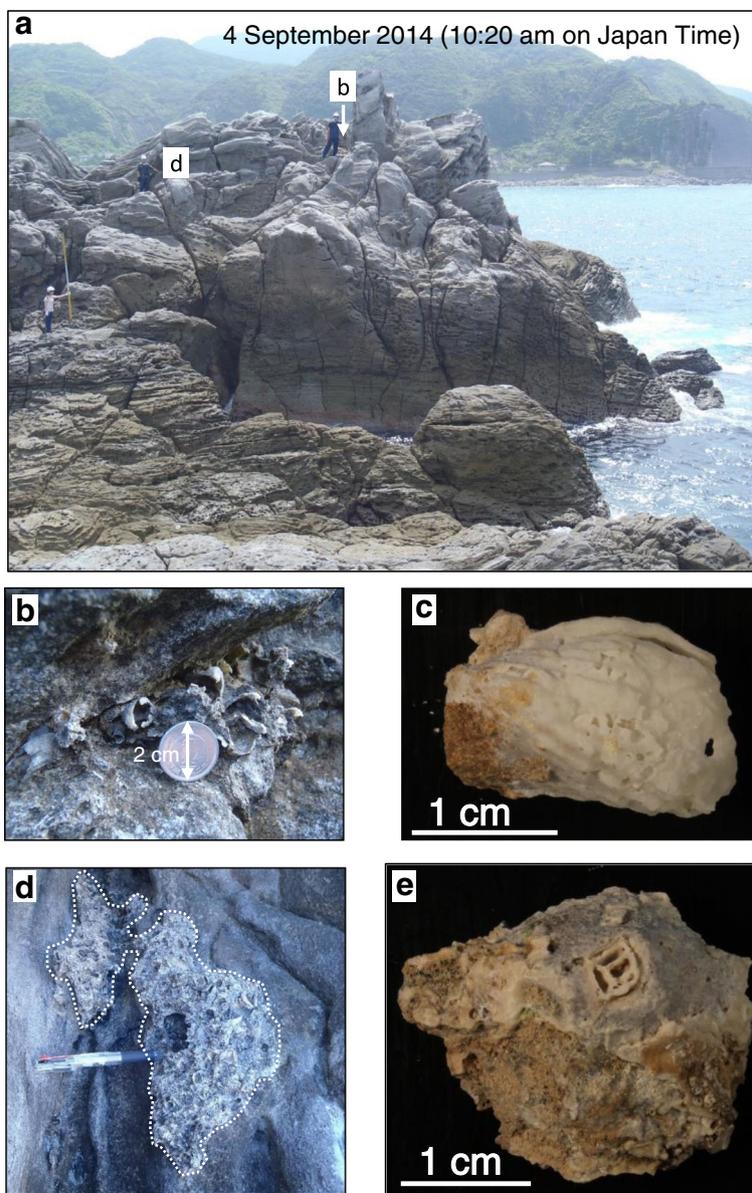
*C. gigas* lives in intertidal and subtidal zones, while *S. kegaki* inhabits the intertidal zone at elevations



**Fig. 9** a Sketch profiles at site K1. b Photograph of a small emerged gorge-shaped inlet at site K1 on Kousushima. c Close-up of the exposure. d Occurrence of *R. typus* (sample K131). e Close-up of the exposure. f Occurrence of *R. typus* (sample K142) (1) and *Tubastraea coccinea* (sample K143) (2). g Occurrence of *R. typus* (sample K141)

from -0.8 to +0.8 m amsl (Okutani 2000). As noted above, since the upper limit of living *S. kegaki* is located at +0.4 m amsl, we used both +0.8 m (Okutani 2000) and +0.4 m (this study) amsl as the upper limit (Table 2). Because the upper limit of *C. gigas*, which is absent in the study site, is the same as that of *S. kegaki*, the values +0.8 and +0.4 m amsl were used for *C. gigas*.

The upper limit of encrustation by abundant calcareous tubes of living *P. kraussii* is located at an elevation of  $0.1 \pm 0.1$  m amsl on Boso Peninsula in Central Japan (Kayanne et al. 1987) and at 0.1–0.2 m amsl on Izu Peninsula in the same region (Kitamura et al. 2014). The value of 0.2 m amsl is used as the upper limit of encrustation of *P. kraussii* because we did not find living individuals in the study area. Local disappearances of *C.*



**Fig. 10** Photographs of **a** site K2 on Kouzushima, **b** the emerged sessile assemblages, **c** specimen of *C. leana* (sample K22), **d** the emerged sessile assemblages, and **e** specimen of *Tetracrita* sp. (sample K211)

*gigas* and *P. kraussii* indicate that uplift of the area has made it an unsuitable environment for these species. Identical phenomena were documented in the southern Izu Peninsula by Kitamura et al. (2014).

*T. chinensis* and *D. planorbis* inhabit the intertidal zone from -0.8 to +0.8 m amsl (Okutani 2000; Yamaguchi and Hisatsune 2006). This is consistent with our observation that the upper limit of *T. chinensis* is located at about +0.8 m amsl. *Tetracrita* sp. lives around the middle tidal zone (Yamaguchi and Hisatsune 2006).

At site S4, where the specimens of *C. serailia* were found, our observations while scuba diving indicate that

living colonies of *C. serailia* only inhabit water depths greater than 0.5 m below mean sea level.

Based on the vertical distribution of these living species, uplift event 1 is estimated to have a minimum uplift of 0.5 m at Niijima (samples N11–N14), 0.4 m at Jinajima (J1), 0.6 m at Shikinejima (sample NNU51), and 1.0 m (0.96 m) at Kouzushima (sample K114). Since the <sup>14</sup>C content of many Group A specimens has been influenced by the atomic bomb effect, the uplift of Group A must have occurred after 1950. As noted above, Niijima and Kouzushima experienced up to 0.2 and 0.9 m of gradual uplift during the periods 2000–2014 and 1990–2014,

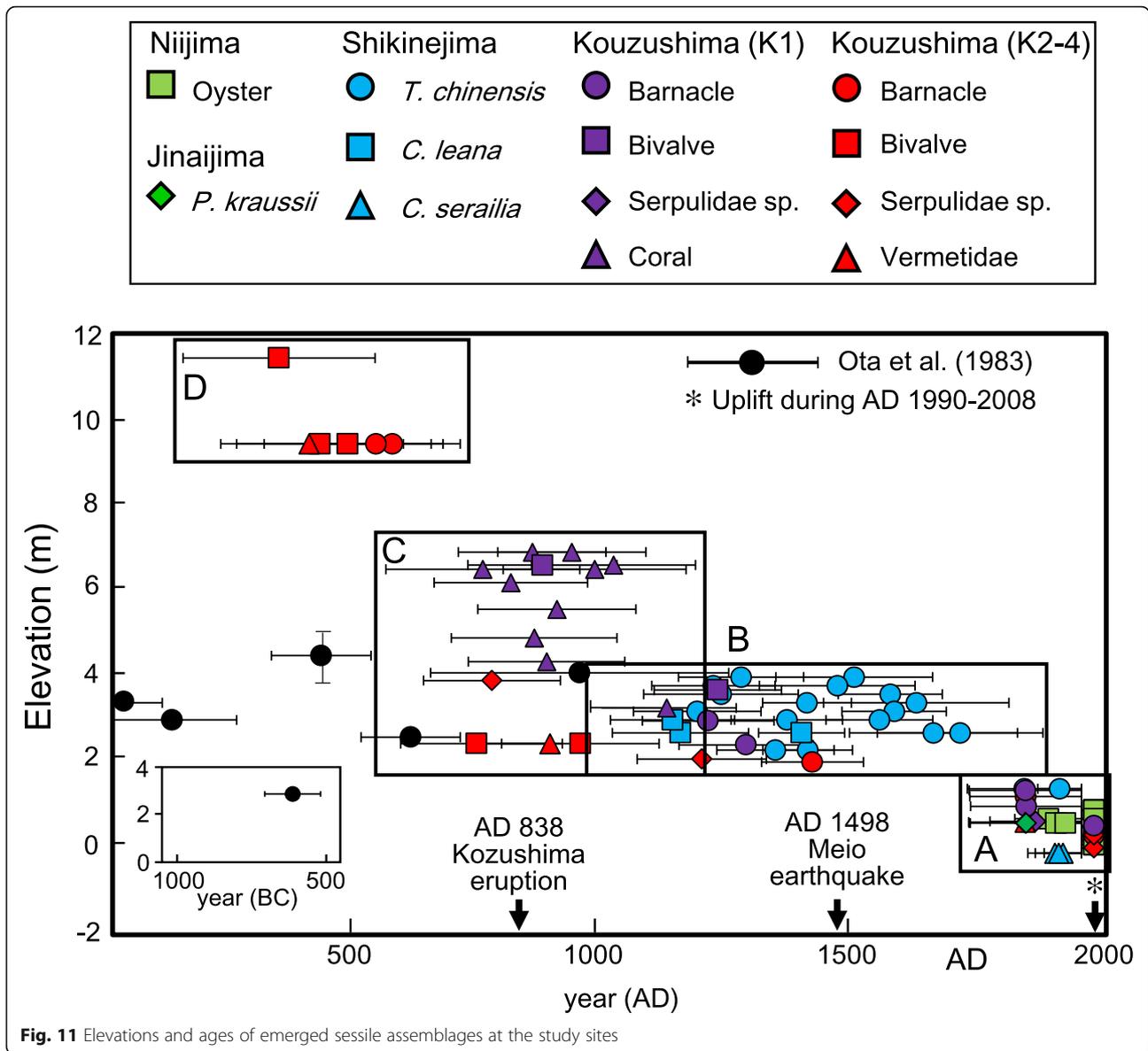


Fig. 11 Elevations and ages of emerged sessile assemblages at the study sites

respectively (Fig. 4). These uplift events were caused by the development of a pressure source beneath Kouzushima and dike intrusion associated with the AD 2000 eruption of Miyakejima Volcano, respectively (Kimata et al. 2000; Murakami et al. 2001; Nishimura et al. 2001; Yamaoka et al. 2005). Thus, we conclude that this episode of crustal deformation, from 1990 to 2014, contributed to the emergence of Group A. The differences between our uplift estimates and values derived from instrumental data are 0.3 m at Niijima, 0.2 m at Jinaijima, and 0.4 m at Shikinejima, all of which can be explained by uplift during the period before GPS observation. Uplift was recorded by GPS at these sites as well as at Kouzushima. Thus, Niijima, Jinaijima, and Shikinejima may have experienced gradual uplift before GPS observation. Data

of the present data were used to determine the minimum uplift that occurred at Niijima (0.5 m), Jinaijima (0.4 m), Shikinejima (0.6 m), and Kouzushima (0.9 m) during uplift event 1. Many specimens of *C. gigas* and *S. kegaki* at Niijima that were found within their living depth ranges were probably killed by burial under sand due to local changes in coastal topography.

**Uplift event 2**

Group B includes *C. leana* and *T. chinensis* at Shikinejima and *T. chinensis*, *T. coccinea*, and Serpulidae sp. at Kouzushima (Table 2). *Cardita leana* inhabits the middle to lower intertidal zone from -0.8 to +0.4 m amsl (Okutani 2000), and *T. coccinea* commonly inhabits water depths of 0-60 m off southwest Japan (Sentoku

and Ezaki 2012). Based on the vertical distribution of living species, the minimum total uplift of Group B since the time of active growth of the assemblages is estimated to be 3.3 m at both Shikinejima (sample ISZ61) and Kouzushima (sample K123). If the actual uplift during event 1 was equal to the minimum uplift that we estimate for event 1 in this study, then a minimum of 2.7 m of uplift occurred at Shikinejima and 2.4 m at Kouzushima during uplift event 2.

With the exception of one specimen that yields an age of AD 1539–1872 (sample TMR13), the  $^{14}\text{C}$  age ranges of Group B specimens coincide with, or exceed, the AD 1498 Meio earthquake. The age range of sample TMR13 (AD 1539–1872) indicates that the uplift of Group B was caused by an event that occurred after the Meio earthquake. However, we do not exclude the possibility that uplift event 2 was caused by the AD 1498 Meio earthquake, because the  $\sim 30$ -year difference between the age of the youngest specimen and the earthquake could be explained by temporal changes in the value of the local correction to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  age ( $\Delta R$ ). Hirabayashi et al. (2017) recently reported that  $\Delta R$  data from Okinawa for 1900–1950 fluctuated from  $-136 \pm 42$  to  $62 \pm 50$  years. Since both the study area and Okinawa are in the Kuroshio region, temporal changes in  $\Delta R$  will affect the calibration of  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages used to provide calendar dates for our specimens. Thus, we cannot exclude the possibility that uplift event 2 at Shikinejima and Kouzushima was caused by the Meio earthquake, in contrast to the interpretation of Ota et al. (1983). Other possible mechanisms include another strong earthquake (i.e.,  $M_W \geq 6.0$ ) or dike intrusion. Many strong earthquakes have struck the study area (Hagiwara and Omote 1936; Honda 1938; Miura 1939; Hamada 2001; Fig. 3). As noted above, dike intrusion associated with the AD 2000 eruption of Miyakejima contributed to uplift event 1 at Kouzushima, Shikinejima, and Nijjima (Nishimura et al. 2001; Yamaoka et al. 2005). According to Tsukui and Suzuki (1998), Miyakejima erupted in AD 1469, which might have caused uplift event 2.

#### Uplift event 3

Group C is found only on Kouzushima and has a wider range of observed elevations than the other groups. This group consists of *R. typus* (site K1), *T. coccinea* (site K1), *Chama iostoma* (site K1), *C. leana* (site K3), *V. tokyoensis* (site K3), *L. curta* (site K3), and Serpulidae sp. (site K4) (Table 2). The bathymetric range of *V. tokyoensis* is lower intertidal ( $-0.4$  m amsl) to subtidal; *C. iostoma* is found from the lower intertidal zone to water depths of 20 m, and *L. curta* inhabits the intertidal zone to depths of 20 m (Okutani 2000). We observed Serpulidae sp. within the intertidal zone at Kouzushima. Ogawa et al. (1996) describe *Rhizotrochus niinoi*, a junior synonym of *R. typus* (Cairns,

1994), as living from the intertidal zone to a maximum depth of 18 m in Kanaya, Chiba, Central Japan. Based on the vertical distribution of living species, the minimum total uplift of Group C since active growth ceased is estimated to be 6.9 m at site K1 (K142), 2.9 m at site K3 (K322), and 3.1 m at K4 (K422). If the uplifts in events 1 (0.9 m) and 2 (2.4 m at K1) were no more than the minimum estimates, then the total uplift is 3.3 m. Thus, we estimate that a minimum of 3.6 m uplift occurred at site K1. While the minimum total uplift of Group C at sites K3 (2.9 m) and K4 (3.1 m) is smaller than the total of 3.3 m when assumption (2) holds, the amount of uplift during events 2 and 3 at sites K3 and K4 is smaller than that at site K1. A similar spatial gradient in uplift was reported by Kimata et al. (2000), who stated that the uplift rate in the northern part of their study area was nearly twice as high as that in the southern part during 1997–2000.

All  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of Group C specimens fall within the period AD 550–1170 BC. During this interval, the AD 838 eruption of Tenjosan volcano on Kouzushima represents the most probable cause of uplift event 3. With the exception of one specimen that yields an age of AD 843–1173 (sample K1441), the  $^{14}\text{C}$  age ranges of Group C specimens overlap the eruption date. The  $\sim 30$ -year difference between the age of the youngest specimen and the eruption could be explained by temporal changes in  $\Delta R$  (Hirabayashi et al. 2017). Uplift event 3 could be explained by lava dome formation during the eruption of Tenjosan volcano (Isshiki 1982); other possible mechanisms include strong earthquakes (i.e.,  $M_W \geq 6.0$ ) and dike intrusion. The AD 838–886 eruption of Miyakejima (Tsukui and Suzuki 1998) may have caused uplift event 3.

#### Uplift event 4

Group D, which is found only at site K2 in Kouzushima, includes *Tetraclita* sp., *V. tokyoensis*, *C. leana*, and *L. curta* (Table 2). Based on the vertical distribution of living species, the minimum total uplift of Group D since the time of active growth is estimated to be 11.0 m (sample K22). Since the other groups are not seen at site K2, the total amount of uplift over events 1–3, which ranges from 2.9 m (site K3) to 7.7 m (at site K1), indicates 3.3–8.1 m of uplift during event 4.

The  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of Group D specimens lie in the range AD 161–686, indicating that the timing of event 4 overlaps volcanic activity that occurred about 230 years before the AD 838 eruption of Kouzushima (Togashi 1984). Thus, we propose that uplift event 4 was related to this volcanic activity, as well as strong earthquakes (i.e.,  $M_W \geq 6.0$ ) and dike intrusion.

At Shikinejima, the non-calibrated  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of *T. chinensis*, *Tetraclita japonica*, *Megabalanus rosa*, and *Saccostrea kegaki* (Table 1) presented by Ota et al. (1983) are older than those obtained in this study (Fig. 11). Four specimens

(GaK-9717, GaK-9718, GaK-9720, and GaK-9721) have elevations similar to those of Group B, so it is likely that their  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages were influenced by contamination by dead carbon after being uplifted with Group B. Spurgeon et al. (2003) obtained radiocarbon dates of shells and cements of carbonate-cemented shell debris located along the coast of the Florida Peninsula, USA. Their results show that the cement ages were 1400–1600 years older than those of the shells. Spurgeon et al. (2003) proposed that dead carbon was introduced during the dissolution–cementation process, causing the cement to yield dates much older than when cementation likely occurred. On the other hand, the elevations of two specimens (GaK-9719 and GaK-9722) are  $\sim 1.1$  m higher than in Group B. This may indicate that uplift took place before uplift event 2. However, no further comparison between the results of Ota et al. (1983) and this study is possible, because we cannot measure the  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of the specimens examined by Ota et al. (1983).

## Conclusions

We re-examined Holocene crustal movements at Niiijima, Jinaijima, Shikinejima, and Kouzushima based on marine species compositions and determined the AMS  $^{14}\text{C}$  ages of emerged sessile assemblages. Our conclusions are as follows:

1. We identified four groups of emerged sessile assemblages that we infer to have been uplifted during four rapid events (uplift events 1–4). The ages of these events are estimated to be after AD 1950, AD 786–1891, AD 600–1165, and AD 161–686, respectively. The minimum amounts of uplift during events 1–4 are estimated to be 0.4–0.9, 2.4–2.6, 3.6, and 3.3–8.1 m, respectively.
2. Uplift event 1 was caused by the appearance of a pressure source and dike intrusion associated with the AD 2000 eruption of Miyakejima Volcano. These mechanisms, along with strong earthquakes, are the most likely causes of uplift events 2, 3, and 4. Considering the timing of uplift event 2, there is the possibility that the AD 1498 Meio earthquake caused the event. The volcanic eruption of AD 838 and a previous eruptive episode in Kouzushima are also candidate mechanisms for uplift events 3 and 4, respectively.

## Abbreviations

AMS: Accelerator mass spectrometry; amsl: Above mean sea level

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## Authors' contributions

AK conceived and designed the study and collected samples. TI identified specimens of mollusks and undertook  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis of the samples. TI and YM discussed the sources of crustal deformation. MI investigated the distribution of living corals. YM and YY undertook  $^{14}\text{C}$  analysis of the samples. YT identified specimens of corals. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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## Competing interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

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