

Variations in Glacial Relicts and Landforms in the High Mountains of Subtropical Taiwan



Prof. Hao-tsu CHU

*Central Geological Survey, Taiwan
Graduate Institute of Applied Geology
National Central University, Taiwan*

Although substantial orographic precipitation, periglacial and surface erosional processes have been active ever since the retreat of the last glaciation, glacial landforms and relicts are rather well preserved in the high mountains of subtropical Taiwan. Cirque glaciers and rectilinear trough valleys are distinctive glacial landforms in the Hseuhshan (3884m) and the Nanhutashan (3742m) area, respectively, in north-central Taiwan. Whereas in central Taiwan, in the Mount Yushan (3952m) area, limited glacial landforms of polished and striated bedrock surface was found, diagnostic glacial landform and glacial erosional features of streamlined bodies and striated moraines are widely distributed in the high ground above 3200m of the Shangyang Shan- Sanchar Shan area of south-central Taiwan. These variations of glacial relicts and landforms in the northern, central, and southern areas of Taiwan could be attributed to differences in geological, topographical, and climatic conditions as the separation between them is only slightly more than one hundred kilometers in the north-south direction. The preservation of various glacial relicts and landforms in the high mountains of subtropical Taiwan will provide unique information on the understanding of the paleoenvironment of Taiwan and adjacent regions.

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Enquires: 3943 9624 essc@cuhk.edu.hk