



**38: Japanese rhinoceros fossils**  
( magnificent specimens from Mine ) '98.10.19

TAKAHASHI



Nowadays there are three species of rhinoceros living in Asia and two in Africa. Rhinoceroses first appeared about 40 million years ago (during the Upper Eocene Epoch, Tertiary Period, Cenozoic Era), and reached their peak by about 23 million years ago (at the end of the Tertiary Period). In Japan, fossils have been discovered in Hokkaido, Tochigi Prefecture, Gifu Prefecture, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Saga Prefecture, Fukuoka Prefecture, and Kagoshima Prefecture. Within Yamaguchi Prefecture, a mylodont rhinoceros from 40 million years ago have been found in the Ube Coal Field, Ube-shi. Also, 18 rhino fossils from 500 thousand years ago (the Pleistocene Epoch, Quaternary Period, Cenozoic Era) have been found in the Mine Coal Quarry in Mine. In particular, a magnificent rhino upper jawbone was found in a quarry in Isa-cho in 1966 - the first fossil to be termed "Japanese rhinoceros". Recently, an almost complete baby Japanese rhinoceros was discovered in Kuzu-cho, Tochigi-ken, and a full-body skeleton has been restored.

(Japanese rhinoceros upper jawbone fossil, 500,000 years old - discovered in Mine)  
Fumio Takahashi, Curator, Mine Fossil Museum

\*Send questions or comments for Dr. Takahashi to:\*  
E-mail: [fvbk5030@mb.infoweb.or.jp](mailto:fvbk5030@mb.infoweb.or.jp)



Fossil Park Fossil Museum Okafuji-sensei Fossil School

Copyright (c) 1997.8.Mine City Office, Planning Division, UTIX Multimedia Studio.

All Rights Reserved.

Plan, Authring & Design : Mine City Office, Planning Division, Utix Multimedia Studio

Last updated on 1999.8.1

1998