

PREFACE

The ecological anthropological research in Africa by Japanese scholars started in the 1960s and spread into the tropical rain forest of Congo Basin in the 1970s. Wamba region in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (former Zaïre) has been the original site of our research. Following the primatological studies on the bonobo (*Pan paniscus*), ecological anthropologists began to shed light on the subsistence of the Bongando people of the region, from whence we expanded our research to the wider tropical Africa. The present issue focuses on nutrition acquisition and related activities in this area, and is organized along the spatial development of our research.

Part I presents our most recent achievements in the nutrition acquisition among the Bongando of Wamba region. Kimura et al. draw on our long-term research to analyze the change in land use as a basis for food production. Yamaguchi discusses the actual food consumption in a village setting, while Matsuura describes the social basis of such food production, specifically the local associations.

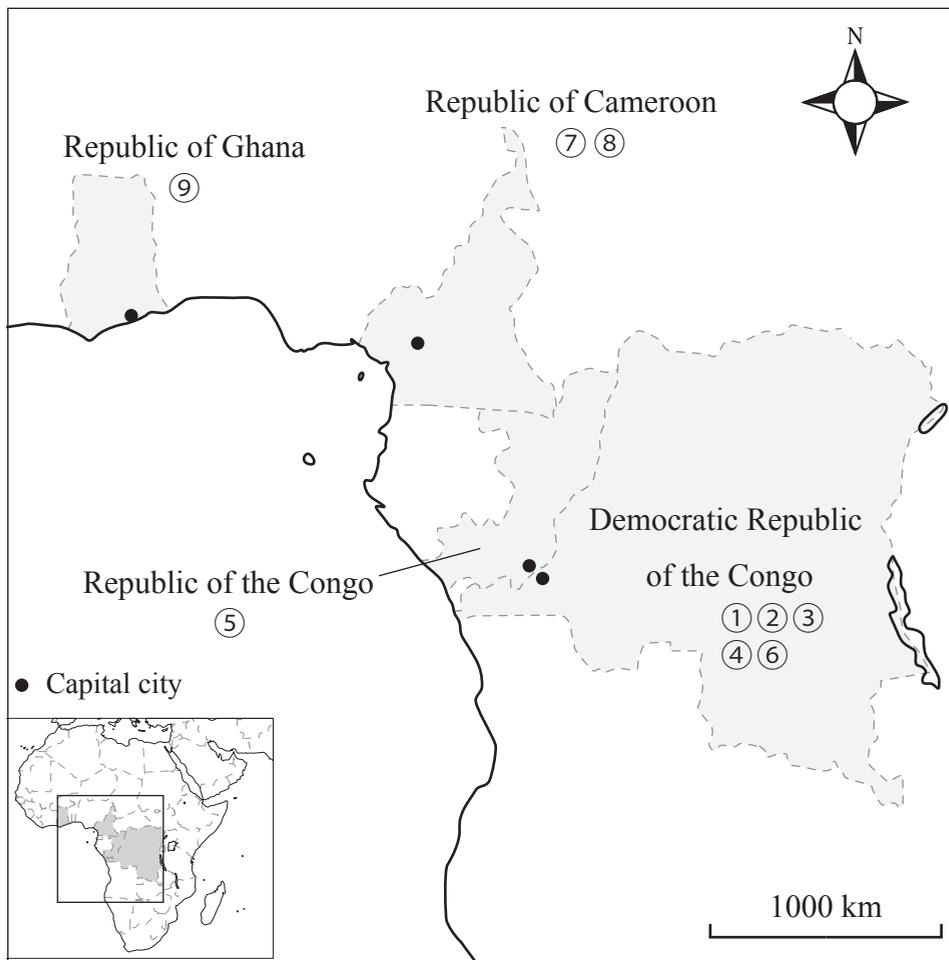
Part II extends our research focus to the wider tropical Africa, covering related activities in food production and trade as well. Takamura describes the distribution system connecting the rural area, including Wamba, to the city of Kisangani. Oishi also reports on the distribution network of fish in the Republic of the Congo. Ikeya describes protein production in the capital city Kinshasa, with a focus on pig farming. Bobo et al. evaluate the impacts of bushmeat hunting in southeastern Cameroon conducted under the control of forest management policy, which in turn is described by Ngima. Lastly, Komatsu and Kitanishi report on the protein intake and distribution in Ghana. Their cautionary note that rapid forest degradation may negatively affect protein self-sufficiency should have serious implications for other tropical forest areas in Africa as well.

To reverse the critical situation, various activities are being promoted by international and local organizations. Such activities, however, are considerably hampered by the lack of knowledge concerning the local situation. The papers presented in this ASM supplementary issue, preliminary as some may be, should offer basic data in dealing with the situation.

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MAP OF THE RESEARCH AREAS IN THIS VOLUME



* Each number on the map shows the chapter number in this volume.