



Observations of airborne *Cryptomeria japonica* pollen in the summer

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Background: Airborne *Cryptomeria japonica* pollen has been detected from July to September, after the main pollen dispersal season (during florescence), in Toyama and Niigata prefectures, Japan.

Methods: To identify the source of the pollen, two possible pathways were investigated: (i) secondary pollen dispersal from the ground; and (ii) release from male flowers remaining on the tree crown in *C. japonica* forests.

Results: Secondary pollen dispersal from the ground ceased just after the main pollen dispersal season ended. However, male flowers remained on the crown until the end of September and released significant amounts of pollen, which contained as much allergenic Cry j 1 as normal pollen dispersed during the spring. There is a significant positive correlation between airborne pollen counts in the spring (February-May) and summer (June-September).

Conclusions: These results indicate that the main sources of airborne pollen grains during the summer are male flowers remaining on the tree crown after their florescence.

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