

ON PHYSICO-GEOGRAPHIC REGIONAL DIFFERENTIATIONS AND REGIONALIZATIONS OF THE HENGDUAN MOUNTAINOUS REGION

Connected the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau with the Yunnan Plateau, the Hengduan Mountainous Region, tipping from north to south, comprises of a series of high mountain ridges sandwiched between deep gorges. The landforms of the region is characterized by mountains, plateaus, valleys and basins, interlaced and separated with distinct relief.

Due to the striking contrast of the relief and widespreads of the altitudinal belt, the regional differentiation of the study region is very complicated, it gives rise to a number of knotty problems on physical regionalizations of the Hengduan Mountainous Region.

The Integrated Scientific Expedition to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), has shifted its major researching area to the Hengduan Mountainous Region since 1981. In order to inquire further the regional differentiation of the study region and discuss the principle and methods of physical regionalizations, a workshop on physical regionalizations of the Hengduan Mountainous Region was held in Changchun, August, 1986. The symposium of the workshop is compiled by the Integrated Scientific Expedition to the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau, CAS and the Editorial Staff of "Mountain Research".

The present symposium on physical regionalizations of the Hengduan Mountainous Region, with the addition of "Division of geologic structure in the Hengduan Mountainous Region", consists of six species of regionalization: physico-geographic, geomorphologic, climatic, hydrologic, pedologic and vegetational regionalizations. The regional differentiations, demarcating principles and characteristics of the units in the system of regionalization for the mentioned above physico-geographic elements are dealt with in the symposium.

According to the relationship between natural phenomena at the earth surface and the integration of contemporary characteristics, the northern section of the Hengduan Mountainous Region is considered a part of the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau as compared with the southern section of the study region. Based on the regional combination of temperature-moisture regimes, the zonal type of vegetation and soils as well as relief characteristics, 5 zones and 9 regions may be divided in the physico-geographic regionalization.

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