



Historical records of Asian dust events (Hwangsa) in the Korean peninsula

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The observation of dust events in Korea must have been important through its long history due to its geographical and meteorological setting. Description about dust events was well documented in historical archives, such as Samguk sagi (BC 57 - AD 938), Goryeo sa (918-1392), Joseon wangjosillok (1392-1853) and Munhuenbigo (~ 1776). In this study, records of Asian dust events were reconstructed from the above historical archives, covering the period of the 2nd ~ 18th century. These historical records were investigated along with the recent data (1914-2004). The first record was made in AD 174 in Silla during the period of the Three Kingdoms. Dust event, now called Hwangsa, was commonly written down as “Woo-Tou” standing for dustfall in historical archives. Although there might be a chance for retrieved data to be biased by several factors such as political instability, the main seasonal feature of the historical dust events was found to be in good agreement with that of the last 90 years. Asian dust events took place most frequently during spring from March to May and there was no occurrence in summer. Therefore, it is likely that the extracted data adequately reflect dust events in Korea over historical times.