

Epicenters of Recently Shallow M6 Earthquakes in Eastern Taiwan, Mapped by b -values

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We have investigated the spatial b -value variations before five mainshock events occurred in the eastern Taiwan region from 2003 to 2009 with $M_L \geq 6.0$ and focal depths less than 20 km. The spatial distributions of b values for estimating periods from 1994 and one year before to the occurrence of five study earthquakes demonstrate that the epicenters are located at the relatively low b value regions for both two estimating periods except for the event 4, which may be the aftershock of the event 1. This resulting spatial relation between the epicenters and the b -value variations in the Taiwan region agree with that of the other seismogenic zones. We propose that this relation may offer a spatial constraint for the future earthquake forecasting in the Taiwan region.