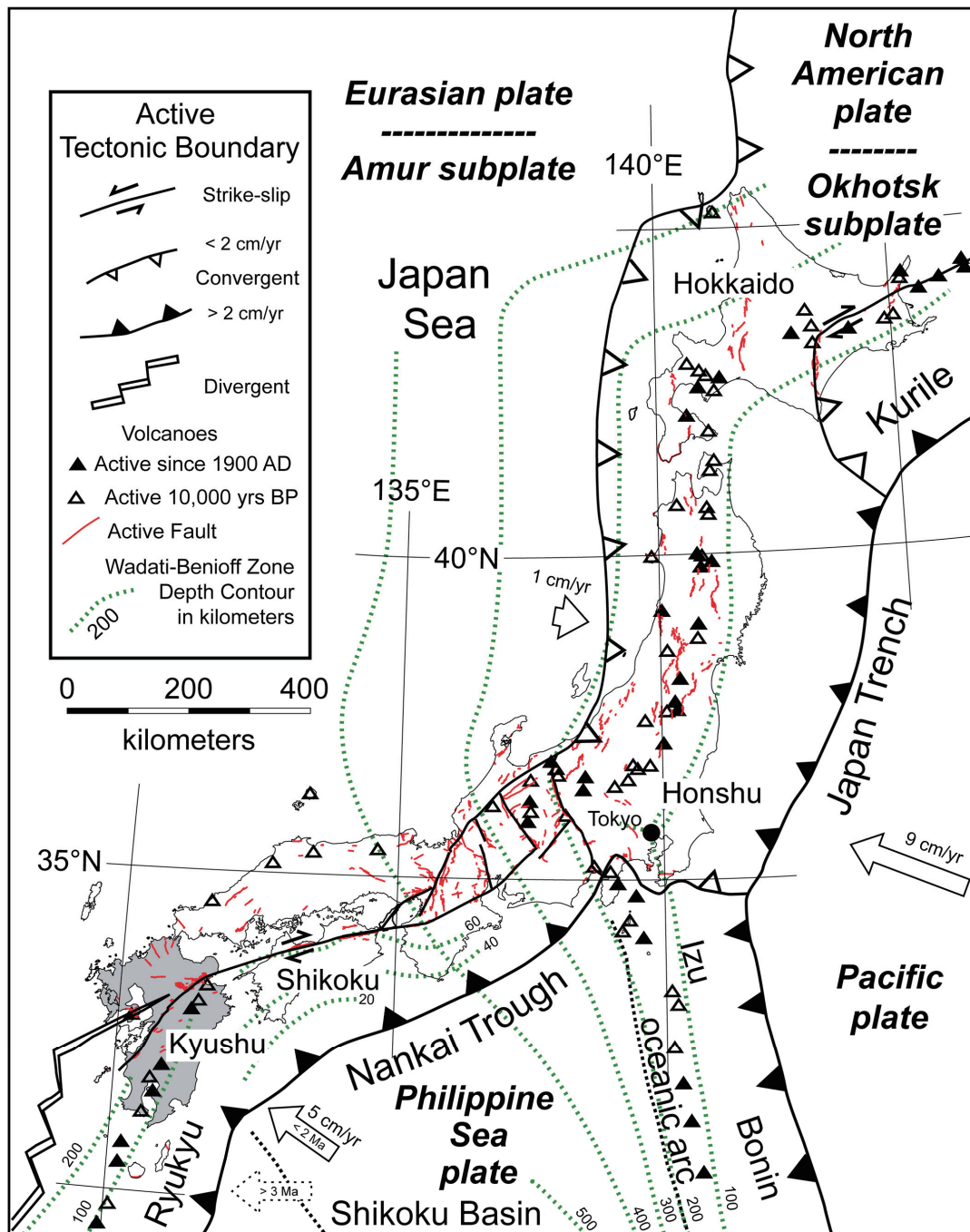


of the lack of a spreading ridge connection to a surrounding plate, the movement history of the Philippine Sea plate is not well determined (Hall et al., 1995; Lee and Lawver, 1995).



**Figure 3.1:** Tectonic setting of Kyushu within the Japanese island arc. The locations of active faults and volcanoes that have been active in the last 10,000 years are also shown.

The eastern edge of the Philippine Sea plate is underthrust by the Pacific plate forming the Izu-Bonin-Mariana arc-trench system. The western edge of the Philippine plate subducts beneath Asia creating the Ryukyu arc-trench system. The Izu arc and triple junction interSection has migrated northwards along the Ryukyu trench passing southern Japan to its present position. In so doing, subduction beneath Shikoku, and southwest Honshu changed from the underthrusting of the Pacific plate to the underthrusting of the Philippine plate along the Nankai Trough.