

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**  
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2015.02.03	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/Research fellow
<b>Name</b>	Akiko Sawada

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Yakushima, Kagoshima, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
Participation in Yakushimagaku Society /ecological research on Yakushima macaques
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2014. 12. 12 – 2014. 12. 19 (8 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Professor Takakazu Yumoto (PRI, Kyoto Univ.), Mr. Kenshi Tetsuka (Secretariat of the Yakushimagaku Society)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.
<p>The two main purposes of this trip is to (1) participate in the Yakushimagaku Society Conference and (2) conduct a research on wild Yakushima macaques (monkeys).</p> <p>■ Schedule ■</p> <p>2014/12/12 Arrive in Yakushima, a preparation meeting for the conference          2014/12/13 Participate in/give a poster presentation at the Yakushimagaku Society Conference &lt;Day 1&gt;          2014/12/14 Attend the Yakutanegoyo-planting ceremony (Yakutanegoyo = <i>Pinus amamiana</i>)          Participate in/give a poster presentation at the Yakushimagaku Society Conference &lt;Day 2&gt;          2014/12/15 Research on monkeys in the coniferous forest (high-altitude)          2014/12/16 No fieldwork due to bad weather          2014/12/17 Research on monkeys in Seibu Rindou area (low-altitude)          2014/12/18 Research on monkeys in Seibu Rindou area          2014/12/19 Research on monkeys in Seibu Rindou area, leave for Inuyama</p> <p>During this visit, I attended the Yakushimagaku Society Conference, which was open to researchers and local residents as well. There were two talk sessions; one was about public toilet system/management in national parks and the other was about Yaku-sugi cedars. Yet enjoyed both discussions, the former was very informative and awakened my interest. The discussion among different involved parties, such as the administration and local tour guides, revealed grave problems regarding the public toilet management in Yakushima, where a lot of tourists would come enjoy its national parks/nature reserve/mountains.</p> <p>On the Day 2, before the conference, I attended the Yakutanegoyo-planting ceremony held at the Yakusugi Museum. Yakutanegoyo is a pine tree and endemic only to Yakushima and Tanegashima, where it was named after. Goyo (“five-leaved”) represents the morphology of its leaves. Each of the participants was provided with a pine sapling to plant. Hopefully those saplings will stay firmly on the ground and make a nice forest of Yakutanegoyo in the future.</p> <p>From December 15, I joined Dr. Goro Hanya (PRI) and Dr. Kazunari Ushida (Kyoto Prefectural University) to conduct a research on Yakushima monkeys. We have been working together to study gut microbiota of wild primates, where my special interests lie in Yakushima macaques. This time, we visited both coniferous forests at the high altitude and broad-leaved evergreen forest in the coastal area in order to collect fecal samples of Yakushima monkeys. Because Yakushima, just like most parts of Japan, was hit by a cold wave, it was one of the coldest on record. We saw monkeys forming a “saru-dango”, a cluster of monkeys sitting huddled together, in the forest. It was also windy enough to cancel all the ferries departing from/returning to Yakushima for a couple of days.</p>

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Mountains capped with snow



Weasel tracks



Sitting huddled together, which is called “saru-dango”



It was one of the coldest days, both for us and for monkeys



A monkey riding deer



Seemed not to be bothered at all

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<b>6. Others</b>