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. 7, 30
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Centre/M1
Name	Makiko Take

1. Country/location of visit

Yakushima Island, Japan

2. Research project

Yakushima field science course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2015. 5. 23 – 2015. 5. 29 (7 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Hideki Sugiura, Associate professor of Wildlife Research Centre, Kyoto University

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (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.

This course was held in Yakushima Island from May 23th to May 29th. The participants were 13 lecturers, 13 Japanese students, and 8 foreign students from 4 different countries, Brazil, India, Malaysia and Tanzania. Twenty-one students were divided into 4 teams as Monkey team, Insect team, Mushroom team, and Deer team, and conducted a small project on each object.

I was a member of the Monkey team. The topic of monkey team was the relationship between Yakushima monkeys and Yamamomo plant, *Myrica rubra*. It is well-known that the monkeys like to eat Yamamomo fruits in that season. Our research question was whether monkeys act as seed disperser or seed predator for Yamamomo plants.

We conducted 2 tasks to answer it (Figure 1). First, we checked the ratio of intact seeds in the feces and measured the feces diameters to estimate the age class of individuals. Second, we measured some characteristics of Yamamomo seeds obtained from feces as well as from trees, and compared them in order to know the preference of monkeys.

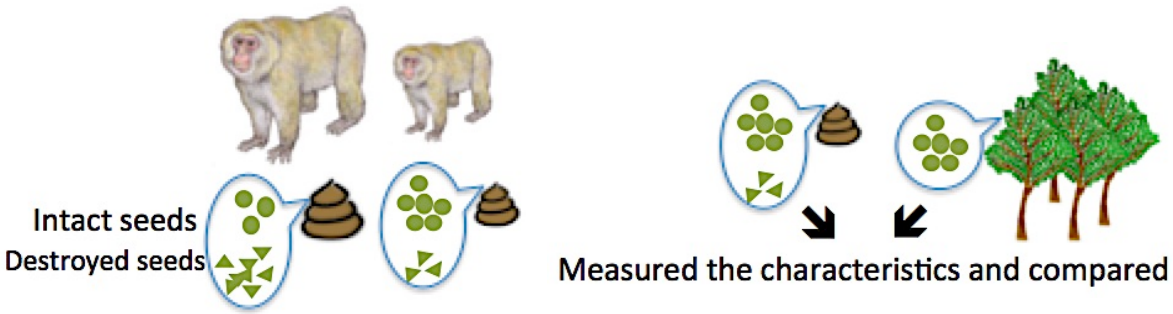


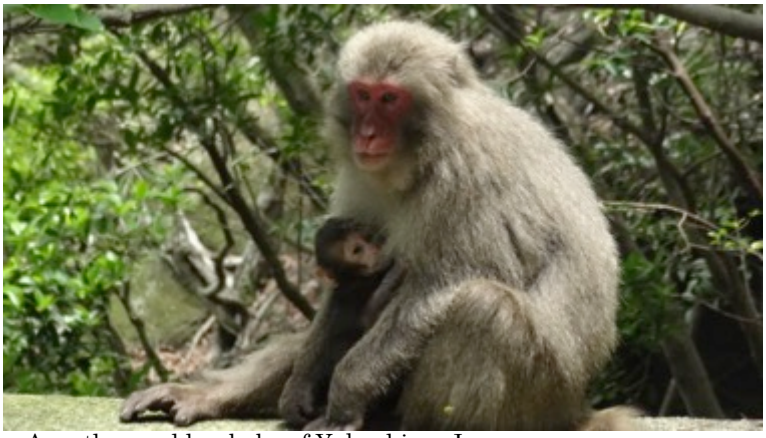
Figure 1. Two tasks of monkey team

As a result, there were no significant difference in seed treatments between adults and juveniles. We found intact seeds in the feces both of adult and juvenile monkeys, so both of them can act as seed dispersers for Yamamomo plants. And, they may prefer the bigger Yamamomo fruits. Bigger Yamamomo fruits had thicker seed coat, and seeds with thicker seed coat tended to remain intact condition in feces, so this preference of monkeys seemed appropriate for seed dispersal of Yamamomo. To know whether the bigger seeds have better germination ability, we have to conduct germination experiments in future.

Overall, this Science course was well-organized to learn the basic way of field work and the analysis, so this experience would directly contribute to my own project in master course. I really enjoyed the field work and the life with a lot of friends from different countries. I appreciate the lecturers, members of Monkey team, all students and all monkeys.

Photos

We searched for monkeys along the load.



A mother and her baby of Yakushima Japanese macaque.

Fecal sample

We washed the feces using sieves.

Practice of tree climbing.

Ice creams after hard work.

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6. Others
I would like to express my gratitude to PWS and Prof. Matsuzawa for supporting this course. I would also like to thank Prof. Sugiura for organizing everything for us.