

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

	2015. 08. 31
Affiliation/Position	PRI/D2
Name	Sofi Bernstein

1. Country/location of visit
Kyoto University Sasagamine Hutte/ Mt. Hiuchi in Nigata Prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
Sasagamine Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 07. 23 – 2015. 07. 26 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Shiro Koshima, (Kyoto University) and Dr. Shigeru Sugiyama (Shizuoka 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.
<p>The goal of this course was to prepare students with vital skills needed for field work. Activities included bivouac encampment training, observing wildlife around the Hutte, and climbing Mt. Hiuchi (2,420m)</p> <p><u>Field Course Schedule</u> Day 1 (July 23rd): Arrived at Kyoto University Hutte and explore the facilities and the surrounding area. Day 2 (July 24th): Walk around the area proximate to the Hutte, observing wildlife and then returning to the Hutte to prepare for the climb to Mt. Hiuchi via a rope training course and an overview of the mapped course to the summit. Day 3 (July 25th): Climbing Mt. Hiuchi from early morning (~5 AM) until the afternoon (~4 PM). Day 4 (July 26th): Left the Hutte en route to PRI.</p> <p>This course was very enjoyable. I especially liked to learn about the rich tradition of mountain climbing at Kyoto University and how it has been linked with researchers who have been pioneers in primate studies. The area is beautiful, peaceful, and relaxing. I felt very lucky to have the chance to share these few days at the Hutte with the rest of the group. Cooking together was great fun and I learned how to make carrot cake in a rice cooker! I also loved seeing the photos and videos Dr. Sugiyama has taken over the years of the various wildlife that have visited the area surrounding the Hutte.</p> <p>Most importantly, it was a valuable course in refreshing my mind on various survival skills. I had previous experience learning how to tie survival knots back in my undergrad when I took a course in marine biology and became a certified deckhand. That was a while ago, and this course sparked my memory in not only knot tying but map reading. My field work in China is conducted in the Yellow Mountains (Mt. Huangshan), so I felt eager and ready to climb Mt. Hiuchi. The climb was similar to what I experienced in China, but thankfully there were not thousands upon thousands of steps like in Mt. Huangshan. It was a beautiful hike, and the view on the summit was breath taking. It was a challenging climb, but very enjoyable.</p> <p>I would like to thank everyone on this course for their kindness and great company. I thoroughly enjoyed my time, and hope to be able to visit during the snow season!</p>

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6. Others



Arriving at Sasagamine Hutte.



The view from the balcony of the Hutte.



Rope tying class with
Mr. Yamomoto.



Baking carrot cake in a
rice cooker for the first
time! Treats for the hike.



The entrance to the
climb to Mt. Hiuchi. The
hike begins!



Check point! Almost there, and look
there's snow up here!



The gorgeous view from the summit of
Mt. Hiuchi!