




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.)

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Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
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1. Country/location of visit
Chile, Santiago, La Serena, Punta de Churos, Puerto Montt, Chiloe
2. Research project
Pre-study of Chilean marine mammals and support of a research start-up
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015. 11. 14 – 2015. 12. 2 (19 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Arturo Cortes, Professor of La Serena Univ., Dr. Gino Casassa, Director of Gaia-Antartica.
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><Summary></p> <p>In this trip to Chile, I had two purposes. One is to visit habitats of marine mammals in Western Coast of South America and another is to support a research start-up of master student, Ms. Kotoyo Ichiyama, for training my skill as a tutor. We visited Las Vertientes to see Dr. Gino Casassa, a Chilean colleague of Prof. Shiro Kohshima, for gathering information about Viscacha and La Serena to have a meeting with a candidate of Ms. Ichiyama’s research counterpart. After that, I visited researchers of Chilean marine mammals, Dr. Juan Capella and Dr. Jorge Gibbon. I could get various information about Chilean dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus eutropia</i>) and Humpback whale (<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>) from them. Unfortunately, I could not visit their field sites, but I could visit other marine mammal habitats and make observations from the vessel. In Punta de Churos, north of La Serena, I could observe 4 species of marine mammals. I could also observe 1 species in Puerto Montt and 2 species in Punihuil, north west coast of Chiloe island.</p> <p>In addition, we had meetings with possible co-researchers at National Zoological Garden of Chile and University of La Serena and discussed possible joint researches on wild animals between Japan and Chile. When we talked with Dr. Aruturu Cortes in La Serena Univ., he kindly agreed to support Ms. Ichiyama for getting the permission necessary for her study on wild Viscacha in Chile.</p> <p>During this trip, I learned that we needed to complete various difficult procedures before we start new studies in other countries. And I also learned again that communication in local-language is very important for field researches.</p> <p><Detailed Report></p> <p><u>Visit to National Zoological Garden of Chile and University of La Serena.</u></p> <p>We visited National Zoological Garden of Chile in Santiago on 16th November and La Serena Univ. on 19th Nov.. We met Mr. Guillermo Cubillos Torres and Ms. Alejandra Montalba Zalaquett. They kindly introduced us their animals and their international project for conservation of wild animals. One of their projects was on Humbolt penguin management and conservation. They plan to establish the breeding colony in their zoo collaborationg with Kaikyo-kan, an aquarium of Japan. In the meeting with them, they showed very positive attitude for possible joint researches with us.</p> <p>The meeting on possible studies on viscacha at La Serena Univ. was featured on the newspaper of La Serena Univ. (Cf. Visita la ULS y el CEAZA delegación de la Universidad de Kyoto liderada por pionero de la investigación glaciológica mundial, 20. Nov. 2015) . We could not directly observed wild Viscachas in Alminante la torre, a field site of the</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">    </div>
counterpart, but we found many traces of them; a lot of feces. Ms. Ichiyama decided to once return to Japan to prepare

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the field research in her next visit.

Gathering information of wild Viscachas.

We visited La Vertientes with Dr. Gino Casassa on 17th and 18th on Nov.



Meetings with marine mammal researchers in Chile.

Dr. Gino Casassa introduced me Dr. Juan Capella and Dr. Jorge Gibbons, Chilean researchers on Chilean dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus eutropia*) and Humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*). I could not visit their field sites: Yaldad Bay at the Southern part of Chiloe island and Punata arenas at the most Southern part of Chile near the border with Argentina. I hope to visit there in next trip.

Observation of the marine mammal habitats using the vessel.

I got on the vessels at Punta de Churos, on the western coast of central Chile on 22th Nov., at Puerto Montt, to the north of Chiloe island on 26th Nov. and Punihuil in the north western part of Chiloe island on 28th Nov.. I could observe 4 species of marine mammals in Punta de Churos, 1 species in Puerto Montt and 2 species in Punihuil. In Punta de Churos, I observed wild bottlenose dolphins. They were found in the more coastal area than other habitats of this species I had ever visited: Japan and New Zealand. The reports on bottlenose dolphin in Chile is very limited, so it is important to clarify some differences in their habitat uses comparing other populations in the different ocean area. During the observation in these boat trips, I also interested in the conflict between human activity and wild Otaria (*Otaria flavescens*) that were often found near the port and the ships. We could also observe many sea birds.



6. Others

I greatly appreciate the supports of Dr. Gino Casassa and Ms. Clowd who introduced us many researchers and field sites. I am also extremely grateful for the kindness from Mr. Makoto Tsutsumi, Ms. Nancy, Mr. Aico, Mr. Gonsaro nad Mr. Roberto. It is a great honor for us that we could do research with them and we hope this will be the beginning of our long lasting good collaboration.