


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.)

2016. 03, 02

Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D3/L4
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1. Country/location of visit
Jigokudani, Nagano prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
Field trip to observe free-ranging Japanese monkeys
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016.02.24 – 2014. 02. 26 (2 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Mr. Toshio Hagiwara, Director of Jigokudani Monkey Park
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.
Last year I met with primatologists Bernard Wallner and his graduate student Lena Pfluger in Vienna, introduced to me by my advisor Prof. Huffman, with the intention of discussing collaborative research on a Japanese macaques. They are involved in the management of the Affenberg Monkey Park in Austria where a group of 145 Japanese macaques live (originally from Mino city). My meeting led to a strong mutual interest in collaborating and PhD candidate Pfluger and Affenberg Monkey Park Director Svenja Gaubatz have made plans to come to Japan to visit PRI, meet people and present some current research. With this opportunity Prof. Huffman and I decided to introduce them to my field study site at Jigokudani, as a possible site for our future collaborative work.
I was happy to see that the group remains almost the same, with only a few changes. The 2nd ranked male apparently migrated to a neighbor group, the females are still rearing a lot of infants, and the group size seems to have increased. I also noticed another hot spring in the site, naturally formed, according to the local staff (Figure 1). Differently from previous years, it was not so cold and there was not much snow, so the monkeys were not entering very often in the hot spring.

Figure 1. Hot spring naturally formed

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Figure 2. Monkey resting in the hot spring

This visit was very helpful for my guests to have a clear image of wild snow monkeys, and how they differ from the group living in Austria. The director of Jigokudani, Mr. Toshio Hagiwara, was also happy to meet them and to learn about the "Austrian" Japanese monkeys. They also discussed about potential collaboration between the two field sites. Lena and Svenja already agreed to show me the Japanese monkeys in Affenberg, Vienna, in the future.

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6. Acknowledgements

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the PWS program and Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa for supporting this trip. I also thank Mr. Hagiwara and the staff of the park Ms. Miyata, Mr. Takizawa, Mr. Sato for taking care of the monkeys and for providing valuable information about the animals. I thank my advisor Prof. Michael Huffman and my colleagues Josue Alejandro, Renata Mendonça, Sofi Bernstein and my guests Lena Pfluger and Svenja Gaubatz for the company and good memories.