

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	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Shohei Shibata

1. Country/location of visit
Koshima, Miyazaki, Japan
2. Research project
Koshima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.04.23-2017.04.29
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Huffman and Dr. Tanaka (Primate Research Institute), Mr. Suzumura (Wildlife Research Center)
5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
<p>I had the opportunity to participate in the Koshima Field Course. Koshima is known for “culture” in Japanese monkeys. During this course, each participant did some observation or field experiment about monkeys.</p> <p><u>Schedule</u></p> <p>Apr.23rd PM: arrived at Koshima Field Station and received lecture about Koshima</p> <p>Apr.24th AM: Preliminary observation</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PM: Decided study theme</p> <p>Apr.25th : Data collection at Koshima</p> <p>Apr.26th : Observing horses at Cape Toi</p> <p>Apr.27th AM: Data collection at Koshima</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PM: Preparation for Presentation</p> <p>Apr.28th AM: Preparation for presentation</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PM: Presentation</p> <p>Apr.29th AM: Clearance work</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">PM: left Koshima Field Station</p> <p><u>My Study in Koshima</u></p> <p>In this course, I focused on male aggression. Japanese macaques are known as despotic species. Dominant individuals have priority of food over subordinate individuals. In a provisioned group, aggressive behaviors increase as a result of restricted food distribution. During preliminary observations, I frequently observed the group’s beta male making threats. I conducted focal sampling to compare aggressive behavior of the alpha male with that of the beta male. I predicted that the frequency of aggressive behavior of the beta male is more than that of the alpha male and the number of individuals within 2m the beta male is less than that of the alpha male from preliminary observation.</p> <p>However, my results showed that the frequency of alpha male aggressive behavior was much more than</p>

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that of the beta male, and the number of individuals surrounding each male did not have large difference. It is possible that frequent aggressive behavior of beta male observed in preliminary observation was caused by observing monkeys in too close distance. During observation for data sampling, beta male threatened only human observers. Although provisioning animals enables observation of animals in close distance, it is necessary to pay attention to the influence of observers.

Overall Impression

Although we could not use the boat to reach Koshima, we could go there three times on foot because low tides. It was not easy to decide my study theme and conduct observations based on the prediction. However, it was valuable learning experience to study social aggression and think about its implications. I really enjoyed observing monkeys and thinking about my question. I also had enough of nature around Field Station. I would like to use this foundational experience in my future studies.



Alpha male



Beta male



Aggressive behavior



Washing wheat

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Corpse of loggerhead turtle



Wild horse in Cape Toi

6. Others

This course was supported by PWS. I appreciate it.