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.)

	2017. 5. 22
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Yutaro Sato

1. Country/location of visit

Japan/ Kagoshima prefecture, Yakushima

2. Research project

Yakushima Field Practice Course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2017. 5. 13 – 2017. 5. 19 (7 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Goro Hanya, Associate Professor at Primate Research Institute, 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.

The aim of this practice was to observe wild Yakushima macaques and Yakushima deer and to collect fecal samples of macaques.

This was the first time for me to observe wild Yakushima macaques (endemic species of Japanese macaque) (Fig. 1). I expected that monkeys in Yakushima, which is famous for its great forests, tended to avoid humans and stay inside the forests. However, some of them were habituated humans, which may be due to feeding from tourists (Fig. 2).

Figure 1. I felt that they had slanted eyes and relatively long hair (the photo was taken on May 14th).

There are some groups of monkeys in the island, so I looked forward to seeing intergroup interaction, but I couldn't see any case. Instead, I could see interesting behavior of monkeys such as a "presbyopic" monkey (Fig. 3).

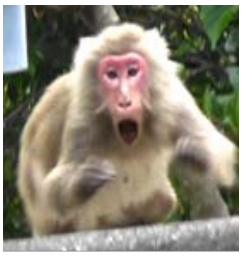

Figure 2. A monkey intimidating us (left) and a monkey taking a bottle (right). They may know they can obtain foods from humans (the photos were taken on May 14th).

Figure 3. The monkey was grooming with keeping her eyes away from her hands. We expected she had aged eyes (left). She has a peculiar grooming style; she repeatedly touched her heads after blushing aside of the partner's fur (right) (the photos were taken on May 14th).

While performing route censuses, we collected fecal samples of macaques. In genome analysis course, we will analyze them to estimate the sex of the defecator and investigate genetic polymorphisms in one of

the behavior-related genes. Feces were rather obvious on the paved roads, on the other hand, they were difficult to find in the forest (Fig. 4).

We could also observe wild Yakushima deer (endemic species of Japanese deer), which seemed a little smaller than typical Japanese deer. I saw some deer with telemetry on their neck. According to the lecture, some researchers are now studying the distribution, diet, and social behaviors of wild deer.

We conducted data analyses and did presentation on 17th and 18th. Analyses of GPS data was difficult and took a long time, so we had to prepare our presentation in short time. That was a hard task but we managed to cope with it by cooperating with each other. Through this course, I realized how important it is to work cooperatively.

Figure 4. Feces we found in the forest. The ground was covered with clay and leaves, which made feces more difficult to find (the photo was taken on May 15th).

6. Others

I am grateful to all lecturers for their kind help. Especially, special thanks are given to the lectures of Monkey/Deer team, Associate Prof. Hanya, Dr. Hongo, Dr. Kurihara, and Mr. Honda at Primate Research Institute in the Kyoto university. I also appreciate a staff who cooked for us during the stay in Yakushima Field Station.

I thank all participants of this course for their cooperation. In particular, thanks are given to the members of Monkey/Deer team.