

Research Activity Report
Supported by International Core of Excellence for Tropical Biodiversity
Conservation focusing on Large Animal Studies(CETbio) ,
“Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Models for Behavioural Evolution Lab, University of Oxford
Name	Mary Sadid

1. Country/location of visit
Japan, Yakushima Island
2. Research project
Study on genetic diversity in Japanese macaques, Yakushima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018.11.03-2018.11.09
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Hideki Sugiura Professor at Kyoto University, Wildlife Research Centre, Dr Naoki Agetsuma, Professor at Hokkaido University Also: Dr A. Sawada, Dr Y. Agetsuma-Yanagihara, Dr Suzumura, Dr H. Taniguchi, and Honda san
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>During this field work course we were instructed on the collection of behavioural data and faecal samples, developing skills ranging from navigating in the field to analysing vocal data. It was a very informative experience and I thoroughly enjoyed being in such beautiful surroundings.</p> <p><u>Day 1: Arrival and visit to field site</u> Day 1 consisted of orientation at the field station and field site. We were given equipment for fieldwork which we tested out in the field whilst observing a macaque troop and receiving instruction on how to take faecal samples</p> <p><u>Day 2-3: DNA team</u> As part of the team looking at transition in genetic diversity of Yakushima macaques and deer I spent the first two full days of the field course collecting DNA samples with the DNA team coordinated by Drs Sugiura and Suzumura, and Honda san. I learnt how to take samples using the lysis buffer method and assess sample freshness. Sample density was highly variable among the regions sampled including some locations not previously covered. It was wonderful to observe Yakushima’s diverse landscapes and partake in some traditional activities such as our visit to the onsen.</p> <p><u>Day 4-5: Deer team</u> During this field course we switched teams half way through such that all participants could experience both forms of field work. Thus for the last two days I was able to work with the deer team whose aim was to look at mating behavior and faecal sex steroid hormone concentration as well as recording vocalisations to build a vocal catalogue. We worked in teams of two paired with an instructor, I worked with Taniguchi san and Maeda san on the first day and Yoshimi san and Ko san on the second day. We practiced skills including GPS navigation and making behavioural observation whilst dealing with the challenging mountainous terrain. Whilst the first day was spent working in Hanayama where deer are habituated and where collared deer are concentrated, on the second day we followed unhabituated deer in Kawahara.</p> <p><u>Day 6: Collation and analysis of data, presentation of preliminary findings</u> The data collected over the field course- vocalisations, macaque and deer DNA faecal samples, and deer hormone faecal samples- was divided among three teams. I was part of the vocalisation team continuing the analysis of vocal recordings with bioacoustics software Ravenlite. We collated the data and assessed our initial hypotheses, presenting our findings to the rest of the field course.</p>

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Day 7: Sightseeing and return to Kyoto

On the final day we visited the the Yakusugi Land nature park taking a short hike and seeing many cedar trees including ones such as Sennensugi that are said to be over a thousand years old. It was very scenic and a pleasant end to an enriching and enjoyable field course.



Clockwise from left to right:

Fig.1 The Yakushima coast line taken on the second day of field work as part of the DNA team.

Fig.2 Field course students walk across a suspension bridge in Yakusugi Land.

Fig.3 Harlequin glory bower: we saw the bright blue berries in some macaque faeces we sampled.

6. Others

My sincerest thanks to the instructors of the fieldcourse and to the PWS programme their funding of this enriching field course.