



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.)

2022. 05, 23	
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Christen Lin

1. Country/location of visit
Koshima, Japan
2. Research project
Koshima field course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
5/9/2022 – 5/15/2022 (7 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Sugiura, Wildlife Research Center, 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.
<p>During this field course, we visited Koshima Island and the WRC field station nearby in Miyazaki prefecture. We firstly learned about camera trapping, and also how to track our everyday routes using GPS devices. We placed various camera traps throughout the forest surrounding the field station, and after approximately 1 week we retrieved them. Unfortunately, possibly due to heavy rain throughout the week, most of our camera traps did not manage to capture any footage of animals during this time. This experience taught me how variable the presence of animals might be, and how significant of a factor weather might play when trying to track wild animals. I also learned that I should somehow weather-proof my wild camera traps in the future, as it was possible that due to the heavy rain my camera trap was knocked out of its original position, and as a result all footage was slightly tilted. Additionally, the heavy rain we had to deal with for most of the week also taught me the importance of bringing gear and equipment suitable for the weather conditions of your field site, and to prepare beforehand and research the weather conditions of the area in advance if possible. I brought a light rain jacket and rain boots, but even that was not enough to combat the amount of rain that we encountered. In the future, I plan to over-prepare for weather conditions, rather than under-prepare like I did during this research trip. As for Koshima Island, we also got to briefly observe the Japanese macaques up-close. What surprised me the most was not only how often they groomed, but how also how they seemed to groom immediately after being fed as well. During feeding sessions there was a lot of screaming, due to some monkeys fighting over certain patches of seeds, or monkeys from different groups coming into contact. Whatever the reason, it was intriguing to witness in-person this post-feeding grooming behavior in primates, which perhaps helped the monkeys to “calm down” after the feeding session, in a way. Figure 1 below is one of many grooming sessions we were able to witness on the island. We also got to witness their food-washing behavior first-hand, although to my surprise it was mainly only Shika, the alpha male, who washed his seeds before eating (figure 1). Overall, it was a very educational course and I learned about Japanese macaques and field work techniques.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Figure 1: Two Japanese macaques on Koshima Island grooming each other.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Figure 2: Shika, the alpha male, washing seeds.</p> </div> </div>

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*Please have your mentor check your report before submitting it to [report@pws.wrc.kyoto-u.ac.jp].

6. Others