



Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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1. Country/location of visit	
Yakushima, Japan	
2. Research project	
Advanced Training in Field Biology	
3. Date	
2022. 01. 28 – 2022. 02. 03 (7 days)	
4. Main host researcher and affiliation	
Professors Mitani Yoko and Sugiura Hideki	
5. Progress and results of your research/activity	
Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.	
<p>The purpose of this visit to Yakushima was twofold. Firstly, we gathered identification data on the resident Yakushima macaques. Secondly, we were conducting tests on the possibility to observe whales from land around the island. Upon our arrival we headed to what would become our main observation point Tachigami-Iwa Bridge. We were able to observe a small number of blows coming from at least one whale, confirming that it is possible to observe the whales from land on Yakushima. We continued to search for places to observe whales before we needed to make the field station ready.</p> <p>On the second day we started with observing more whales with more thorough documentation. The documentation consisted of the observers’ locations with elevations as well as timestamps of different behaviors and estimates of the number of individuals being observed. The behaviors we recorded were blows, dives with and without seeing the tail fluke, breaches, pectoral fin slaps, tail slaps and whether or not we could clearly see the whales’ bodies above the water’s surface.</p> <p>Following the whale observations, we travelled to a location of the island that constituted part of the range of unidentified Japanese macaques. Our intention was to individually identify as many monkeys as possible. We encountered what we speculate to be two separate group of animals. Tentatively referred to as ‘Group A’ and ‘Group B’. We started identification immediately which is conducted by examining the monkeys for identifiable features, such as facial or other body features that are unique to the individual animal. Usually, these features are a result of injury such as scars or loss of function in digits. These features are sketched, noted and photographed for further analysis.</p> <p>The third day of this field work was entirely dedicated to observations of whales. We travelled around the island in search of good spots to observe whales and were quite lucky in our pursuit as we found several spots suitable for whale observations. In terms of documentations, we were instructed in</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Everyone searching for whales on Tachigami-Iwa Bridge on the second day</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo from our first meeting with 'Group A'. 'Group B' would appear sometime later at the far end of the road</i></p>

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how to record the weather conditions for cetacean observation. We were able to see several whales for far longer and far closer than we had before and in addition to the objective behavior we were able to speculate about more complex behaviors such as courtship and resting.

The fourth day involved some whale watching. However, the majority of the time was utilized by returning to the area of ‘Group A’ and ‘Group B’. We conducted a far more extensive survey of the monkeys and were able to gather much more identifiable data on the monkeys. As we returned to the field station that night we began the process of sharing our observations and photographs to conclusively identify the individuals and naming them.

On the fifth day the weather was less favorable than it had been previously, it was very windy and it rained a lot. This made observations of the monkeys very difficult as they tend to search for the cover of the canopy when it rains. We searched for macaques in the morning and late afternoon, but were unable to observe any from ‘Group A’ or ‘Group B’. We also spent much time trying to observe whales from a hotel veranda. However, the whales were far out and difficult to see. We did manage to observe two who did display diving behavior and pectoral fin slaps.

The final day was dedicated to observing monkeys. We were able to expand our knowledge of their range when we discovered them away from our regular observation spot. In the evening we were able to catalogue our findings of both the monkeys and whales (see figures).



Frequently observed ‘Monkey Dango’ where the macaques huddle together for warmth in colder conditions



This monkey was named Fredrik. He can be identified by the scar on his lip, his white face markings and the white spot on the inside of his left hand



We were able to observe many deer during the course as well

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ID	Name	Sex	Age	Offspring	Features	Picture	Sketch	Notes
1	1 Fredrik	Male	12	-	scar on the mouth, white under the eyes, white spot inside of the left hand	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Z1RnURatuPmP9e	https://drive.google.com/file/d/15NeT-Pjdx0DN6BOA	Alpha male?
2	2 Naotumi	Male	7	-	Cut, hairless on the right elbow (temporal)	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mpuYbj7BFdCoxMl	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wBDhuK4f68nbCS4	
3	3 Sasuke	Male	7	-	Wart on the nose, red testicles?	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pTRl6UR0WMIk7cJ	https://drive.google.com/file/d/12DL5SNyC2oJewnlZ	
4	4 Yakutan	Male	6-7	-	Right eye is smaller, cut on lower part of left ear	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S3XuQKwxxovDV1R	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ugt_UJum_eCRcEN	
5	5 Kubo	Female	>15	-	Cut on both of lower and upper lip, knob between eyes	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	β male?
6	6 Albin	Male	>12	-	White under both eyes, long cut from right nose hole to upper lip, short 5th finger of L hand, small holes on nose	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
7	7 Noboron	Male	4-6	-	wart under the right eye, black spot on the left side of the nose, white line	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
8	8 Li	Female	Old > 15	Oyrs, Male (2022)	4th finger of L hand is stiff, 3rd finger's nail of L hand is lacked	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
9	9 Ansu	Female	Old	-	Presbyopia, mated	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
10	10 Kabuki	Female	15-18	Oyrs, Female (2022)	White around the eyes, some cuts on both ears, cut on left month	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
11	11 Boba	Female	Old	-	Cratering eyebrows (looks black in the shade), stiff 'hooked' index on left hand	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
12	12 Gummi	Female	Old	-	Baby face black tail, inconmient left hand	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
13	13 Tina	Female	8-9	Oyrs, sex unknown	white on the middle of nose, cut on the right side of upper lip	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
14	14 Magu	Female	Old	grooming with 6-7yrs	4th finger of R foot warped, 2nd finger of L hand is stiff curve	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
15	15 Nasu	Female	8	-	wart? under the nose, 2nd finger of I hand is partly missed, 2 scabs on the nose	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
16	16 Monge	Female	10	Oyrs, 4-5yrs female grooming	white spots, cut on the bottom of L ear	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
17	17	Female	10	Oyrs, 4-5yrs female grooming	white spots, cut on the bottom of L ear	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	
18	18	Male	2-3	-		https://drive.google.com/file/d/10X9OvszZWH4pPOX	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1c-RK19_ARAKjpxobV	

Figure 1 This table is the result of the consolidation of our observations of 'Group B'. It contains key information about the monkeys, their identifiable features as well as photos and images of sketches.

Time											Weather report				
Session	Date	Start	Finish	Place	LAT	LON	Elevation	Group	Individuals	Cloud	Wind	Clare	Visibility	Sightability	
1	1/29/2023	9:32:00 AM	10:25:00 AM	Tachigami-Iwa Bridge	30.32	130.39	138.00	1	5 (min:4, best:5, max:5)	-	-	-	-	-	
2	1/30/2023	8:44:00 AM	10:15:00 AM	Tachigami-Iwa Bridge	30.32	130.39	138.00	1	5	5 C	-	5	2	2	
3	1/30/2023	1:10:00 PM	2:10:00 PM	Onoaida Lighthouse	30.23	130.56	49.00	1	1	2 BC	-	3	4	3	
4	1/30/2023	2:41:00 PM	4:17:00 PM	Hirauchi	30.23	130.48	31.00	1	1	2 BC	-	3	4	3	
5	1/31/2023	8:29:00 AM	10:39:00 AM	Tachigami-Iwa Bridge	30.32	130.39	138.00	1	1	2 BC	-	3	2	4	
6	2/1/2023	12:40:00 PM	3:00:00 PM	JR Hotel	30.23	130.55	69.00	1	1	2 C	-	5	2	3(28km)	

Behavior											
Blow	Body	Dive(fluke up)	Breach	Pec slap	Tail slap	Notes					
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>				○ (confirm with We didn't record the weather					
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>							
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/>							
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>		Joined Nao-san I'm excited!!					
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>							
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>							

Figure 2. This table is a consolidation of our whale observations. It contains information on time, location, weather and behavior, It does not however contain our hypothesis of what the functions of the behaviors were such as courtship.