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.)

	2024. 05, 18
Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Fadel Abdurrahman Azhari

1. Country/location of visit

Koshima, Miyazaki

2. Research project

Field Training on Animal Behaviour and Ecology

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2024. 05. 07 – 2024. 05.13 (7 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Associate Professor Sugiura Hideki

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.

During the field course in Miyazaki, I learned countless things from field skills, observational skills, basic data analysis on animal behaviour, and presentation of results.

1. Preparation Phase

Before going to Koshima, we prepared the necessary gears such as sleeping bags, binoculars, cooking utensils, cutlery, and most importantly, supplies of food and drink.

In the preparation phase, I learned weather observation which is crucial when conducting fieldwork, mainly the use of various weather information from different sites such as jma.go.jp and yahoo weather, and to interpret such information such as low pressure and high pressure systems. I learned that low-pressure areas generate clouds as air moves upward and sometimes brings rainy weather, while high-pressure areas usually bring clear skies as precipitation does not move upward.

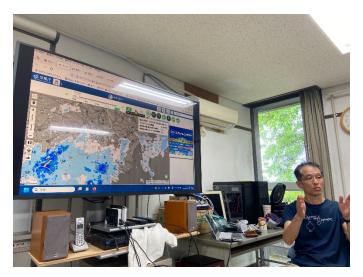


Figure 1 Sugiura Sensei explaining about weather

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2. Koshima Island – Monkey observation

Research topic – Comparison of feeding habits of Pregnant vs non-pregnant Japanese Macaques on Koshima Island

In Koshima Island, we stayed for 2 nights and 3 days, and during the 2nd and 3rd day, I observed monkeys being fed on the beach in the morning with a research theme of "Comparison of feeding habits of Pregnant vs non-pregnant Japanese Macaques on Koshima Island."

I collected and compared behaviour data of similar ranked pregnant and non-pregnant Japanese Macaques, namely Tsusuji (pregnant) and Tsuwa (non-pregnant). My results show that the pregnant individual (Tsusuji) was more aggressive in obtaining the distributed wheat compared to the non-pregnant individual (Tsuwa), despite Tsuwa being higher ranked. I concluded the study with the discussion that pregnancy might be the reason for Tsusuji's aggressive behaviour, and I predicted that the fetus which Tsusuji was carrying would be a male, as previous research says that male-bearing mothers could be more aggressive, possibly due to the androgen hormone produced by the fetus. Few days ago, the child of Tsusuji was born, and the child is a boy.

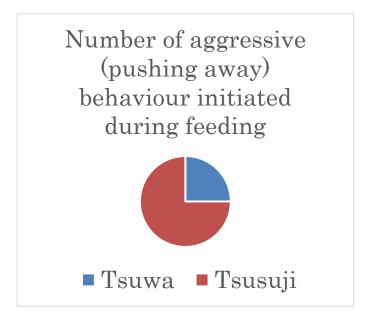


Figure 2 Research output

Acknowledgement goes to Sugiura Hideki sensei and Suzumura san for supporting me in finding the research theme and necessary information such as rank and individual identification, and also thank you for the useful inputs to my presentation.

3. Set up camp, land navigation, and training for outdoor life

From carrying supplies from the boat to the camp site, setting up the camp, to cooking, I learnt and observed a lot about how field ecologists work and sustain their studies.

A very important skill that was taught when we went into the forest was land navigation using a map, compass, and GPS. I learned how to incorporate the 3 to know my bearing and heading to rightly go where I wanted in the forest.

4. Miyazaki horses

On the 11th, I went to Toi Cape to see the research site for Japanese horses, and learned the WRC students' study topics about hierarchical structure and behaviour of horses. I saw unique behaviours of horses, such as pooping on top of each other's poop and grooming by their necks.

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Figure 3 drone operation for horse study

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

6. Others

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