

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.)

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1. Country/location of visit
Takasakiyama, Oita, Oita, Japan
2. Research project
Visiting Takasakiyama monkey park
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 03. 23 – 2016. 03. 25 (3days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Huffman, Professor at Primate Research Institute
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>On the first day, we visited the hot spring area in Beppu, Oita. Some of hot springs are called Jigoku in Japanese, which literally means a hell, because of their unique scenery and characteristics. I had not known them before I visited there. I was very surprised from the very first moments since there was lots of white smoke everywhere. Later I noticed that it was hot steam coming from chimneys from the ground (Pic. 1). I have not seen this kind of scenery before and immediately thought that how the people, who lived there several hundred years ago, recognized this unique geological features.</p> <p>We visited several well organized hot springs starting from blood pond hell. Every hot spring has its unique characteristics and the name of each hell is based on its own features. One of the most impressive one was Umi-Jigoku (Pic. 2). Lots of steam came out from the ground and the hot water in the pond was light blue like a coral reef area though the water was opaque. One of the best part of the day was outdoor foot bath. We walked a lot to see all 8 hells (Jigoku) there and felt a bit tired. At the last Jigoku, there was a foot bath. We decided to have a short foot bath and it made me very refreshed.</p> <p>On the second day, we visited Takasakiyama Japanese monkey park. Takasakiyama monkey park is one of the oldest Japanese macaque study sites and park in Japan, though it is now mainly functioning as a park for publics. The main business of the park is relying on two monkey troops called B and C under artificial provisioning. Each group consists of around 700 hundred monkeys and the population size is fluctuating every year depending on ecological conditions. The monkey population is not under any of artificial birth control methods. When we were there, park staff just started provisioning wheat to C group (Pic. 3). The staff were very enthusiastic to introduce and explained the group to the visitors. They were doing their job very seriously. I was very impressed by the staff and their passion so I feel a little bit sorry to say this. However, anyway, I would like to point out this. I thought that the way that they deal with the monkey populations, including the way of provisioning, is somehow old fashioned and needs to be reconsidered soon (Pic. 4). I am sure that the staff of the park are very open minded to improve the situation. I also believe that they can find the way to improve the situation since they have the best field knowledge and experience as well as affection on the troops. After visiting the monkey park, we went to a very old hot spring where we could take a bath (Pic. 5). It was very relaxing time. I enjoyed a lot.</p> <p>Overall, it was very nice field course. In particular, the course was very valuable in that I was able to see the wild monkeys under human influence and to re-think about the way to manage wild monkey populations.</p>

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Pic. 1. Steam from the ground



Pic. 2. Umi-Jigoku



Pic. 3. Japanese macaques in Takasakiyama



Pic. 4. Crowded Japanese macaques in Takasakiyama



Pic. 5. (Left) After a bath in a hot spring

6. Others

Thanks you so much for giving me the chance to join the Takasakiyama field course. I also appreciate Professor Huffman, Sayuri, Sofi and Miku for organizing this trip.