


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

2016. 5. 31

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Liu Jie

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima, Japan
2. Research project
Field Science Course in 2016
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016. 5. 21 – 2016. 5. 27 (7 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Goro HANYA (Primate Research Institute, Kyoto Univ.) 半谷吾郎(京都大・霊長研) Kazunari USHIDA (Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, Kyoto Prefecture Univ.) 牛田一成(京都府立大・生命環境) Akiko SAWADA (Primate Research Institute, Kyoto Univ.) 澤田晶子(京都大・霊長研) Takakazu YUMOTO (Primate Research Institute, Kyoto Univ.) 湯本貴和 (京都大・霊長研) Munehiro OKAMOTO (Primate Research Institute, Kyoto Univ.) 岡本宗裕 (京都大・霊長研) Naoki AGETSUMA (Field Science Center for Northern Biosphere, Hokkaido Univ.) 揚妻直樹 (北海道大・北方生物圏フィールド科学センター) Yoshimi AGETSUMA-YANAGIHARA 揚妻芳美 Mari NISHIKAWA (Graduate School of Science, Kyoto Univ.) 西川真理(京都大・理)
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.
It was really a great experience to study in Yakushima Island. I participated this field study as a member of Monkey group. The Japanese macaques are the terrestrial monkey species native to Japan living in several variety of habitats. In Yakushima, their diets vary in altitude. I was lucky to see the lowland group, east highland group and west highland group of <i>Macaca fuscata yakui</i> in this comparatively short time. Monkey group came up with a question as “How does the gut microbe contribute to the digestion of foods by the host animals?”. In order to find the answer, we woke up around 5 a.m. every morning. We walked toward mountains and through forests to find monkey feces. We scoop small amount of feces for RNA analysis. Then the whole feces were grabbed with plastic bags while the sampling information was recorded as the collecting time and GPS location. After we finished collecting 20 samples from highland group and low land group, lab work was conducted to weigh samples, incubated for fermentation, measure gas production and pH. This is an extremely rewarding course. As a D1 student of primatology study, I benefited a lot from this field work. This is a joyful journey which was inundated with multitudinous experience of lab work in the field together with the valuable monkey and scenery observation in Yakushima Island.

Northern Beach of Yakushima

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Macaca fuscata yakui



Monkey observation



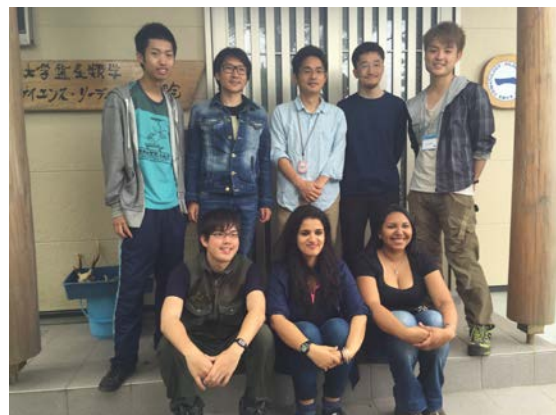
Sample collection



Exhaust the air from the collection bag



Lab work



“Monkey Group”

6. Others

I very much appreciate to all the supervisors and staffs for their time and energy in this Inter-Lab course, and to all the student who made great efforts to reach the study goals.