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.)

	2016. 11, 9
Affiliation/Position	Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University / M1
Name	Anna Ito

1. Country/location of visit

Japan/ Yakushima Island

2. Research project

Field Science Course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2016. 10. 15 – 2016. 10. 21 (7days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Dr. Sugiura and Dr.MacIntosh

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.

This field science course was aimed at experiencing both field work and laboratory work. We conducted research on Yakushima Macaque (Macasa fuscata yakui) and parasites in their feces. In the field, we collected feces of monkeys. Then, we processed collected samples and observed parasites in feces with a microscope at our laboratory.

【Schedule】

October 15th Arrival, collecting samples at Seibu Rindo
16th—19th Collecting samples and analyzing
20th Analyzing, preparing for presentation, and presentation
21th Departure

【Field】

I have observed Japanese macaques at Arashiyama in my undergraduate days. At that time, however, my target was one monkey group fed by park staffs, so they didn't move so much. First, I was surprised that monkey groups in Yakushima moved around actively. Some groups stayed on the road for hours and we could observe them and collect their feces relatively easily. Other groups, however, escaped as soon as we began observation. It seems that there are differences of habituation to people between groups.

In order to make use of identities (sex, age, group) of individuals for data analysis, it was better to find monkeys defecating than to pick up unknown feces. At first, I couldn't predict when monkeys defecate and at all. Teachers told us some tips. Monkeys raise their tails up before they defecate and they tend to defecate during fighting. These tips made our works easier.

Fortunately we could get enough samples, so we did focal sampling as well. I observed five monkeys, and each of them behaved differently. Those differences were caused by their ranks in groups, that was very interesting. I saw a low-rank male monkey mating on the tree. I felt he was so smart to know that he was hiding from other males. I am interested in how females change their behaviors by their rank.

【Laboratory】

I was attracted by the beauty of parasite eggs. There were cells of monkeys, something fibrous, pollen, and so on. Parasites eggs were outstanding among them, so we used to recognize them right away. They remained perfect shape.

Also I was interested in that we can extract three data (hormones, DNA, parasite) from only feces. By further analyze, we could find many facts about the relationship of monkeys and parasites. I regret not participating in Genome Course.

【General】

We made presentation about the relationship between and monkey's information and parasites in their feces. I felt some difficulty of sharing information and unifying opinions with members.

During this course, I heard some folklore in Yakushima Island by our teachers. It will be fun to know local culture not only biological things next time I conduct a field study.

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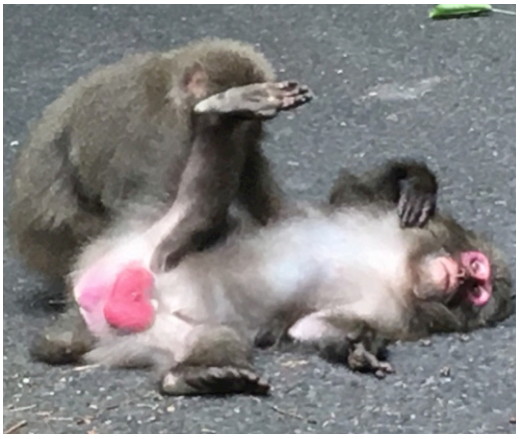
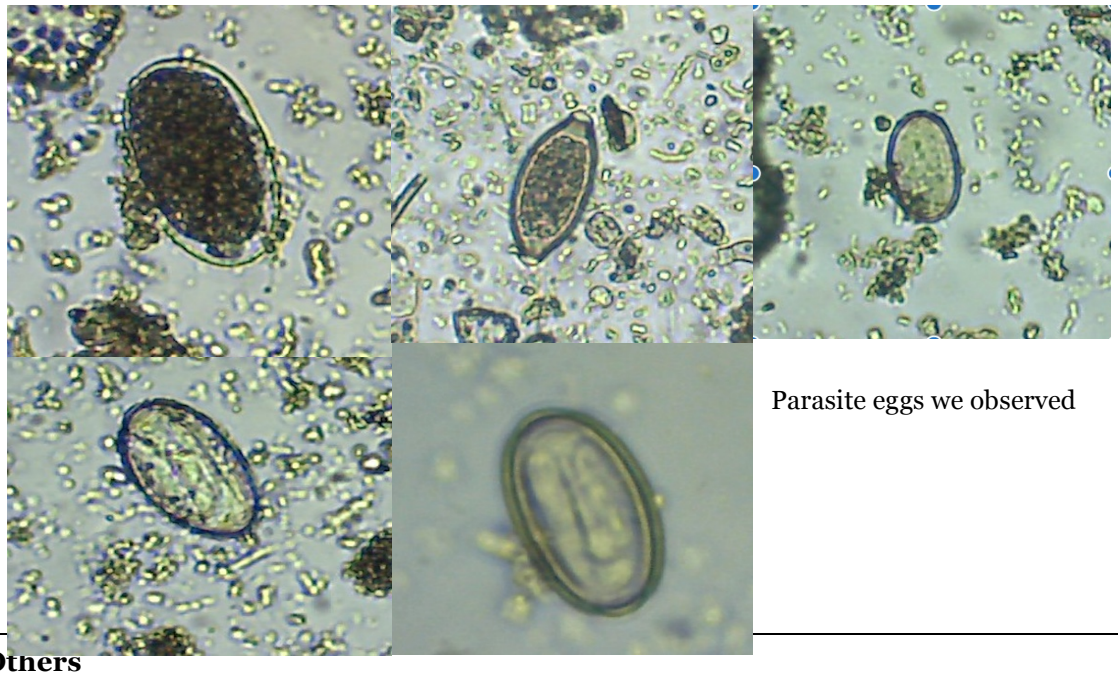
Monkey in the forest



A male being groomed on the road.



Parasite eggs we observed

6. Others

Thanks Dr.Sugiura,v Dr.MacIntosh, Dr.Claire, Ms.Liesbeth, and PWS program for teaching and supporting us!