

**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.)

	2017.11.16
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/ M1
<b>Name</b>	YAN Xiaochan

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Iriomote Island, Okinawa Prefecture, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
Iriomote Field Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2017.11.11 – 2017.11.15(5 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Dr. Matsuzawa, Dr. Koshima (Kyoto University), Ryukyu University
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (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>From November 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, I visited Tropical Biosphere Research Center University of the Ryukyus in Iriomote island. The main purpose is to explore biodiversity of mangrove forest, coral reefs in subtropical ecosystem, and learn about conservation situation of Iriomote wild cat. During the trip, I trekked around mangrove forest, observed kinds of plants adapting to salty water environment. I learnt kayaking which is one of skills to travel amazon river and other tropical places. In addition, I did snorkeling to explore coral reefs in the ocean. It is a colorful, lush and spectacular world under the sea. I got close to coral reef and various fishes. What’s more, I got a general idea of Iriomote wild cat and saw the traditional habitat of Iriomote wild cat. During this trip, I learnt biodiversity of mangrove forest and ocean in subtropical ecosystem. Iriomote wild cat, it served as an example of wild animals to be protected as conservation. I believe this experience will help me broaden my horizon of biodiversity and ecosystem in subtropical area.</p> <p>On the first day, we left from Inuayama to Ishigaki by airplane. Subsequently, we arrived at Iriomote station around 5 p.m. by bus and ferry. We was preparing for the next day.</p> <p>The second day, it was raining all day. With the guidance by local researcher, I trekked around mangrove forest by walk and kayaking. I saw three kinds of aerial roots which are specific adapted to salty water. The knee root was impressive by its shape. I also learnt sea-dispersal of plant specific in mangrove forest. What’s more, mudskipper and hermit crab are everywhere in mangrove forest. I did enjoy the exploration in mangrove forest, it made me recall my similar experience in my undergraduate. I was impressed by mangrove forest by its ecosystem. I would like to have more chances to explore it deeper.</p>

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The third day, we had a lecture of coral reef followed by snorkeling. I greatly enjoyed the snorkeling since I can get close to colorful world under the sea. The world under the sea attracts a bunch of researchers get into its biodiversity, but many things are still unknown. It was very lucky that I was able to observe many kinds of corals and fishes surrounding corals in raining day. During the day, rain and wind made the trip tough, a cup of hot coffee on the boat helped us a lot.

On the fourth day, we explored around the habitat of Iriomote wild cat and analyzed camera-trap data after the lecture on Iriomote wild cat and its conservation. Wild boar, box turtle, mice and kinds of bird were observed in Iriomote wild cat’s habitat by camera-trap. It was lucky that we found the fresh feces of Iriomote wild cat in rainy day and analyzed its diet. In Iriomote island, many wild animals were killed by traffic. So, the under-path was established to prevent wild animal from traffic accident in Iriomote Island. I visited the Iriomote wildlife conservation center as well. It was impressive that not only local people but tourist has a sense to cooperate with Iriomote wildlife conservation center. Once it was found that the wild animal dead on the road, people passed by will inform the center. Nowadays, the Iriomote wildlife conservation center collected the information to help wildlife.

Overall, I greatly enjoyed the trip in Iriomote island. The biodiversity of mangrove forest and coral reef were very attractive. According to this trip, I knew more about biodiversity in different ecosystem. Through the interesting activities, like kayaking and snorkeling, I was able to improve my skill to explore different ecosystems. I am looking forward to exploring more places and improving my skill in wild.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Matsuzawa and Prof. Koshima for organizing this field course. I also want to express my great gratitude to the professors from Ryukyu University for their guidance and arrangement. Thank PWS for organization and financial support.

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Fig 1. Trekking in mangrove forest



Fig 2. Hermit crab



Fig 3. Knee root of mangrove plant

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Fig 4. Coral reef in the sea



Fig 5. Iriomote wild cat specimen in the center



Fig 6. Diet analysis of Wild cat



Fig 7. Group photo after kayaking

**6. Others**