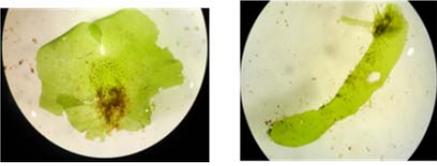


Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

2014. 6. 15

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/D1
Name	Hiroko Sakuragi

1. Country/location of visit
Japan/Yakushima Island
2. Research project
Yakushima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2014. 5. 18 – 2014. 5. 26 (9 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Professor Shiroh Kohshima, Wildlife Research Center
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>This course was mandatory for me as a PWS student. My goal was to obtain the basic fieldwork skills required for biologists.</p> <p>As a member of the plant group, I collected fern gametophytes (vegetative growth stage) and sporophytes (spore forming stage) at three different river basins. Our aim was to obtain basic data on fern diversity within Yakushima Island. We first identified sporophyte samples morphologically, and found that one sampling area was especially rich in species. As for gametophytes, species identification by morphology is nearly impossible, thus we preserved all samples for later DNA analysis.</p> <p>As a student of ethology, collecting plant samples was a completely new experience for me. It was interesting to see the difference from animal behavior observations, where I must identify individual animals and follow the focal individual. Plants do not move, no. It was also interesting to become acquainted with botanists, for they seemed to have a different atmosphere from the fieldworkers I know in my area of studies.</p> <p>I have also realized, through crouching down and searching for microscopic gametophytes, that I had never actually looked at plants very closely. I have been seeing them, but not <i>looking at</i> them, especially the little ones. Close to the ground, there were so many small organisms that I had never realized were there before, which amazed me. I have always been drawn to the social aspect of animals, and moreover I have been studying dolphins in artificial environments (aquariums). It has been very easy for me to forget how all living things are inter-connected in nature.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">I regret having to end this report with such a mundane conclusion, but am tremendously grateful for the whole experience. I thank all the lecturers for making this all happen, especially Assistant Professor Sugiura for arranging everything, and Assistant Professor Shinohara and Professor Kudoh for letting us know plants can be fun, too. I also thank all my new friends and group-mates for the wonderful time we had together, on the island and throughout the journey.</p>
 <p>Fig. 1. Finding and collecting gametophytes.</p>
 <p>Fig. 2. Heart-shape and ribbon-shape: two major types of shape for gametophytes.</p>
6. Others

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