

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.)

2015.7.27

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center/M1
Name	Natsuko Tajima

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima, Kagoshima Pref
2. Research project
Yakushima field science course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2015.5.23-2015.5.29(7days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
PWS program
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>The schedule of Yakushima field science course is as follows. 5/23 Arrived at Yakushima Briefing 5/24 -5/27 field work 5/30 Arrived at Kyoto</p> <p>In this course, students were divided into 4teams; Monkey team, Deer team, Insect team, and Mushroom team, and each team follows their own target species in fieldwork.</p> <p>I was the member of the Deer team., so we collected the feces of Yaku shika deer, which is the endemic species of Yakushima and observed their social behaviors. From deer feces, we would extract DNA samples in upcoming Genome course and from the results of behavioral observation, we would reveal the relationship between kinship and social behaviors.</p> <p>It was my first time to observe deer behavior in the forest, so I could learn how to observe and record the animal behavior in the forest. It was very hard and also very exciting to follow the deer silently and quickly as soon as possible.</p> <p>Also I got many advice and explanation about Yaku shika deer and our research from Dr. Agetsuma and his wife Yoshimi-san. Their advices are available for my own research.</p> <p>And the half of the participants of this course were foreign students, so we communicated in English each other through this course. It was very good training of English for me, and It was very interesting to talk about our native culture with foreign students. From this experience, I want to brush up my English to exchange my opinion with foreign researchers.</p>

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Yakushika deer doing social behavior: grooming



The feces of yakushika deer



Participants of Yakushima field course

6. Others

I appreciate Dr. Sugiura and all the teachers of this course for helping us. And I am truly grateful to Dr. Agetsuma and Yoshimi-san for your support. Also I appreciate the PWS program and members.