

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.)

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1. Country/location of visit
Iriomote, Okinawa, Japan
2. Research project
Iriomote Tour
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
26. 11. 2015 – 2015. 10. 30 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Nishida and Prof. Watanabe (Ryukyu University), Prof. Reiko Takizawa, Prof. Sakai, Prof. Yumoto, Prof. Kohshima and Prof. Matsuzawa (Kyoto University)
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>Iriomote is the second largest island in Okinawa and it's famous for its biodiversity. The most celebrated endemic species is the Iriomote Cat, classified as Critically Endangered (IUCN), with a population estimated in 100 individuals. Another special feature of Iriomote is the mangroves. A mangrove is a self-sustaining system, with salt tolerant trees presenting a complex root system. It's also home to many aquatic organisms, as fish, crustaceous and molluscs. It plays an important ecological role and is vital for the protection of coast areas. We could observe several species of mangroves from very close distance by kayak at the same time we enjoyed the beautiful landscape. In Hoshizuna-no-hama paradise beach, we walked on “little stars”- calcium-carbonate foraminifera grinded from the coral reefs, which we had also the opportunity to visit by snorkelling. We also visited several waterfalls (Mariyodo-no-taki, Kampire-no-taki and Pinaisara-no-taki) and by night we walked surrounded by fireflies.</p> <p>Before returning to Inuyama, we were presented the chance to visit the Ishigaki Yaima Village, Japan Registered Cultural Heritage. In Yaima Village, we walked through a Japanese traditional village with relocated private houses and replicas of traditional fishermen and farmers' homes. Yaima also included a Squirrel Monkey Garden and a mangrove forest, protected under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>This tour gave students the opportunity to survey and explore this subtropical island, with special</p>

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note for Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park which comprises both mountain and mangrove forests. Personally, I used this opportunity to observe wildlife in a subtropical habitat. I was mostly impressed by the flying foxes, the crested serpent eagle and the beauty of the coral reef.

I left Iriomote with a serene and happy feeling and the desire to return and to explore the island further.



Fig. 1. Flora in Iriomote-Ishigaki National Park



Fig. 2. Mariyudō-no-taki: Waterfall on the Urauchi River, Iriomote.



Fig. 3. Urauchi River Cruise.



Fig. 4. Specimen of Iriomote Cat (taxidermy) in Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center.



Fig. 5. Specimen of several species found in Iriomote Island (taxidermy) in Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center.



Fig. 6. Lantana flower, Iriomote.

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Fig. 7. Iriomote landscape.



Fig. 8. Iriomote harbour



Fig. 9. Mangrove, Iriomote.



Fig. 10. Coral reef in Hoshizuna-no-hama, Iriomote.



Fig. 11. Dinner at a local dinner.



Fig. 12. Sunset harbor scene, Iriomote.

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Fig. 13. Dinner at a local dinner.



Fig. 14. Squirrel monkey (*Saimiri boliviensis*) at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.



Fig. 15. Infant squirrel monkey (*Saimiri boliviensis*) at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.



Fig. 16. Mangrove at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.



Fig. 17. Life representation at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.



Fig. 18. Life representation at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.

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Fig. 19. Fishermen's house at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.



Fig. 20. Traditional house at Ishigaki Yaima Village, Ishigaki.

6. Others

I wish to express my gratitude to Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Nishida, Prof. Watanabe, Prof. Sakai, Prof. Yumoto and Prof. Koshima for their guidance during the trip; to my colleagues and staff at the Field station for their support. To Prof. Takizawa for her patience concerning my “food troubles” and for the arrangements for this trip. I’m also very thankful to the PWS program, to Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, and especially to Prof. Tetsuro Matsuzawa and Prof. Misato Hayashi for supporting this trip. I’m also thankful to the Okinawa local community for their hospitality.