

**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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<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute /M1
<b>Name</b>	Mao Asami

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>	Yakushima Island in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>	Social interaction and genetic relation among wild Sika deer on Yakushima Field Science Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>	2016. May. 21 – 2016. May.27 (7days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>	Professor Goro Hanya and Professor Naoki Agetsuma. Yakushima Field station(Wildlife Research Center)
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (You can attach extra pages if needed)	<p>Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.</p> <p>During this field science course, about thirty students were divided into three groups: “Deer” “Monkey” “Fig and Insect”. I belonged to deer group which observed social interactions between deer and collected their feces to get DNA sample. The research conducted in west part of Yakushima island where southern part of Japan from May 21<sup>st</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Our subject was Yakushika which a subspecies of Japanese deer (<i>Cervus nippon</i>). They inhabit in Yakushima island and Kuchinoerabu island. Some of those were habituated to human so that we can follow and observe them closely. Previously, social interactions of mammals are not research well except monkeys and apes so our objective was to study the behaviours and social interactions among wild deer. Addition to that, establishment of the method of non-invasive DNA sampling is necessary for wildlife conservation now. Therefore, our second objective was to identify the sex using genetic markers and genotype mitochondrial haplotype from non-invasive samples.</p> <p>We observed about 20 deer and collected 47 fecal samples during this field course. Those are going to analyse and examine the relationship between social interactions and kinship in genome course.</p> <p>&lt;The schedule of deer group&gt;        May 21<sup>st</sup> Move to Yakushima island, short observation of deer and Japanese monkeys.        May 22<sup>nd</sup> Observation of deer and collect fecal sample.        May 23<sup>rd</sup> Observation of deer and collect fecal sample.        May 24<sup>th</sup> Observation of deer and collect fecal sample.        May 25<sup>th</sup> Analyse data and a short training of radio telemetry.        May 26<sup>th</sup> Presentation and party.        May 27<sup>th</sup> Clean the station and hiking in Shiratani-unsuikyo, leave Yakushima.</p> <p>In this course, the most exciting things were observation of unique ecosystem in Yakushima island and mixing with people from other country. Especially, it was interesting for me that interaction between deer and monkeys. Some deer follow monkeys to get leftover of monkeys and rest with them. Through this course, I felt my English skill was improved by chatting and discussing in English. That is one big fruit that I got from this course.</p>

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Picture1: Monkeys and Young female deer



Picture2: Deer with collar for radiotelemetry



Picture3: Washing bones of deer

## 6. Others

I would like to thank all of people who help this field science course. Especially, Prof. Hanya Goro, Prof. Agetsuma, Yoshimi-san and Nishikawa-san helped us a lot to understand how to manage the research. My sincere gratitude to PWS program and members of deer group for giving this wonderful opportunity in Yakushima.