

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
Japan, Koshima
2. Research project
Koshima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017. 04. 16 – 2017. 04. 22 (6 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Hideki Sugiura ,Wildlife Research Center, 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. As a Primatologist and as a PhD student of Kyoto University, I always wanted to visit the birthplace of Japanese primatology “Koshima Island”. The field course under PWS has provided me an excellent opportunity to visit Koshima. It has enabled me to learn more skills required to work in the fields and the forest. It was an amazing experience to be part of this historical place with backdrop of beautiful mountains accompanied by dazzling Sea. As part of course work, our first day started with preparation for the camping in Island for 3 nights and 4 days. On 16 th April, we arrived at the Koshima research station and immediately started our preparation for the camping in forest with naturally giving priority to food .We bought all the required cooking stuff enough for next 6 days. On 17 th April, we started heading towards Koshima Island in early morning because of the weather condition. We arrived at the Island briskly and carried all stuff to the located camp site. An entire morning was spent in setting up the camp and making it little bit comfortable predicting possibilities of rain. As soon we finished setting up the camp, clouds pour their welcome in the form of heavy rains. Thanks to our hard work in setting up camp quickly, we were able to enjoy rain without drenching in it. After couple of hour’s rain stopped, we were able to explore the different areas of Island. We learned to use navigation through GPS while exploring flora and fauna of Island in the afternoon. After 2-3 hours of trekking, we went back to our camp and started preparation for dinner. On morning of 18 th April, after breakfast, we went to the beach and started observing Japanese monkeys. I started my observation by taking focal scan of the adult female which was the only individual exploring the beach at that time. She was simultaneously inviting others by calling them but other individuals were less motivated to come out from forest. I continued my observation of that female for some time but soon she also went inside the forest. Hoping to find entire troop, we also went inside the forest. Though we were not able to locate same troop but we found another troop named as “North Troop”. We spend our time observing the North troop for remaining hours of the day. 19 th April was the wheat feeding day providing perfect

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opportunity for observing monkeys at the beach. I was very excited to witness wheat washing technique uniquely demonstrated by Japanese monkeys. I concentrated my attention on two male individuals for my study naming them as “Alpha” and “Beta” respectively. As I spent my time observing them during wheat feeding, I found interesting differences in their wheat washing behavior. Beta male was washing wheat very frequently but on the other side Alpha male was not seen once to do the same. On 20th April morning, I continued my study focusing Alpha and Beta male. We spent our whole morning observing monkeys. In afternoon, we came back to the research station. After arriving at the station, we cleaned our tents and arranged our belongings. We spent our day having shower and doing our laundry after almost 3 days. Having good dinner, we started analyzing our data, “fruits of our labor” in last three days at Koshima. On 21 April, we prepared presentations of our observation for Japanese Monkeys covering various aspects. After lunch, we presented our findings in front of all members. It was very interesting to hear all as every individual was focused on different aspects. After discussing our presentations and their outcomes, we celebrated our successful field trip with barbecue party. On 22nd April, we went to the Cape Toi to observe wild horses, called “Misaki-uma”. We spent almost 4 hours visiting different part of the Cape Toi and observing different groups of horses. We were lucky enough to see the calf that was just born in the same morning. Visit to the Cape Toi was most amazing experience for me as I love both the ocean and the mountains. Cape Toi has it all, “Beautiful mountains surrounded by the glittering Pacific Ocean”. To sum up, it was an amazing field experience where I appreciate lots of things specially how to manage the camp and performing the observation at the same time.

6. Others

I am very thankful to PWS for providing me this opportunity. I would also like to thank Prof. Sugiura for teaching us all field techniques. I also appreciate help and teamwork of other participants making this trip very enjoyable.



Our camp at Koshima Island



View from Our Camp

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Japanese Monkeys feeding wheat grains on Beach of Koshima Island



Alpha male feeding on wheat grains on beach



Group photo at Cape Toi



Misaki-uma at Cape Toi