

**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.)

2019. 06, 18

<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/M1
<b>Name</b>	David Fasbender

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan, Yakushima
<b>2. Research project</b>
Yakushima Field Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
Yakushima 2019. 05. 25 – 2019. 05. 30
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
<b>Kyoto University:</b> Dr. Hanya (PRI), Dr. Toju (CER); <b>Chubu University:</b> Dr. Sawada
<b>5. Progress and results of your research/activity</b> (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>During this field course we followed deer and monkeys in the forests of Yakushima and evaluated fly preference for either species’ feces. It was a wonderful place to conduct fieldwork. The Yaku monkeys and Yaku deer seem to be living an idyllic life sharing fruit in tranquil forests with a view of the sea on one side and mountains on the other. Our main focus however was on the feces: to see whether obtaining mammal (monkey or deer) DNA from coprophagous flies is biased towards certain species. To that end, we observed how many flies showed up to feed on each species’ feces (deer vs. monkey). It was satisfying to see a clear difference from the start: watching monkey feces consisted of trying desperately to count swarms of flies while watching deer feces consisted of watching a pile of feces with the occasional fly.</p> <p>Back in the PWS research station in Nagata village, we were given helpful training in statistics and fly identification. We spent several afternoons struggling to identify similar fly species (mostly successful) and analysing results. We confirmed significant differences in overall preference of flies for monkey feces. This preference was driven by two very abundant fly species which significantly preferred monkey feces over deer feces. On the last afternoon we presented these results to the ‘Species-Interaction Group’ and learned about their work. This was followed by a great barbecue. Before our flight back, we visited Yakushima’s old-growth cedar forests with a personal guided tour by Dr. Hanya.</p> <p>This course was a useful experience in experimental fieldwork, as I am more familiar with observational field studies. Brainstorming with a team about how to overcome the limitations and biases of our experiment was useful training as was the guidance on tricky fly identifications and statistics.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Monkey feces observation set-up</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Yaku macaques grooming by the road</p> </div> </div>

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The view from behind the research station. At night sea turtles would lay their eggs on the beach.

## **6. Acknowledgements**

Thank you very much PWS for this experience, Yakushima is unforgettable and the course was very helpful. Thank you to Hanya-sensei, Toju-sensei and Sawada-sensei, Honda-san, Lee-san and Tianmeng-san for all the help in the field and with analysis.