

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

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1. Country/location of visit																		
Yakushima Island, Japan.																		
2. Research project																		
Study on Japanese Macaque																		
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)																		
2014. 05. 19 – 2014. 05. 25 (6days)																		
4. Main host researcher and affiliation																		
Professor at Shiro Koshima, Wildlife Research Centre, Kyoto University																		
5. Progress and results of your research/activity																		
<p>I visited Yakushima island from 19th-25th May 2014. We stayed at Isso village.</p> <p>During this visit, I conducted research on Japanese macaque. We were divided into two groups and I belonged to Group A. We were responsible to collect behavioural and feeding data as well as fecal samples for DNA analysis. This group consists of 3 students and 2 mentors. Prior to the fieldwork, we were brief regarding the fieldwork research methods and safety precautions while conducting fieldwork.</p> <p>Below is the simplified method and procedure for the data collection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focal animal sampling This task is assigned to one of the person in the group (we rotate each task daily). The main task is to record animal behaviour at each minute in accordance to certain code (Please refer table below). Individual is supplied with a timer that will sound an alarm for each minutes. Behaviour recorded as long as the monkey is in sight. Observation is stopped when the focal animal is lost more tha 15 minutes. <p>Data sheet record:</p> <p>Troop name: Age/Class/Sex: Time: Activity: as listed below</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Activity</th> <th>Code</th> <th>Types of Behaviour</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Feeding</td> <td>F</td> <td>Searching for, manipulating and eating food</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moving</td> <td>M</td> <td>Continuously moving</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Resting</td> <td>R</td> <td>An inactive state lasting longer than 5 second</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grooming</td> <td>G</td> <td>Stroking and picking that continue for more than 5 second including self grooming. Groomee (being groomed), Groomer (the one doing the grooming)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Others</td> <td>O</td> <td>e.g. agonistic interactions including threatening, chasing, fleeing, and submissive behaviour.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Activity	Code	Types of Behaviour	Feeding	F	Searching for, manipulating and eating food	Moving	M	Continuously moving	Resting	R	An inactive state lasting longer than 5 second	Grooming	G	Stroking and picking that continue for more than 5 second including self grooming. Groomee (being groomed), Groomer (the one doing the grooming)	Others	O	e.g. agonistic interactions including threatening, chasing, fleeing, and submissive behaviour.
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For feeding behavior, responsible personnel also required to record the part of the food eaten following these code:

Parts Eaten	Code	Food Eaten	Code
Leaf	LF	Fungus	FG
Fruit	FR	Herb	HB
Flower	FL	Twig	TG
Bark	BK	Animal Matter	AM

Samples of the food eaten are also collected if possible.

2. Ad-libitum sampling and food item sampling

One personnel is assigned for this task. He/she is responsible to record the duration and food eaten by the focal monkey

3. Fecal Sampling.

One individual is assigned for this task. This personnel is responsible to collect DNA and fecal samples from fresh monkey feces. Fecal samples was brought to Nagata Field Station for food analysis using washing method and DNA samples brought back to Kyoto University laboratory for Genome analysis.

I used this opportunity to learn and master the skills for behavioral and observation of wild animals in the field which i have not done before. It has been a great new experiences and learning as the mentor for our group is very helpful and willing to share their knowledge and experience in conducting the field research.

Through this experience, I have developed a clear vision on how to cope with animals, which will be of great help in the future conservation and study in terms of behaviors. Hopefully this knowledge can be applied in conservation and research in my country.

6. Others



Group photos of Yakushima Fieldwork. In front of Isso Station.

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Grooming



Feeding



Ojii-san



Sazae

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I would like to extend my gratitude especially to Prof. Shiro Kohshima and Wildlife Research Centre for inviting me to participate in this training. I also would like to thank all of the lecturers and mentors involved with this training. Your valuable guidance and knowledge sharing during this training will always remain in my mind and forever be appreciated. To my supervisor, Associate Prof. Shahrul Anuar, thanks a lot for choosing me as one of the representative for Universiti Sains Malaysia. The knowledge and experience gained from this training will be shared and used to further enlighten our knowledge on wildlife research and conservation.

Thank you.