

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2015-06-02 | |
| Affiliation/Position | Primate Research Institute, M1 |
| Name | Alejandro Pastrana Josue Samuel |

| |
|--|
| 1. Country/location of visit |
| Koshima, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan |
| 2. Research project |
| Ecological Field Training Course (Experiments with wild Japanese Macaques at Kojima) |
| 3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan) |
| 2015. 04. 25 – 2015. 05. 02 (9 days) |
| 4. Main host researcher and affiliation |
| Dr. Goro Hanya, Professor at Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University (With WRC staff) |
| 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>As part of the curriculum for M1 students at the Primate Research Institute, we had the opportunity to travel to the island of Kojima (known as “Koshima” by the primatology world) off the coast of Kushima in Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan. The purpose of this Ecological Field Training was to conduct field work from start to finish; from getting to the site, thinking of a research question to ask, take observation data, analyze, present it to peers, and finally hand in a report that would be reviewed by an ecologist. We started by practicing how to take observational data on non-human primates prior to our trip and looking for a potential project we could do. Indeed, this was a great practice for me since I am in the Social Systems Evolution Section and I am currently doing my project looking at behaviors in Japanese Macaques living in different types of enclosures.</p> <p>During the field course, we were able to stay at the island where the animals live free ranging and are provisioned regularly at the beach by the staff of WRC. It was a great experience to be at one of the locations where Japan pioneered some of the earlier behavioral observations on wild Japanese Macaques, such as the transmission of cultural traditions of sweet potato washing among others. Not only was the experience of staying with the monkeys in the island great, but also the fauna and flora surrounding this sub-tropical island was breathtaking. It was also a great experience to see other parts of Japan and other monkeys living in different conditions, which were very different from the ones I have seen in Jigokudani in the north, in Shodoshima as well as in Onobora at the Resource Research Station. Moreover, I was able to share a great bonding experience with my M1 colleagues as well as the PRI staff that helped me so much to understand how to do all the steps needed in ecological field work.</p> <p>For my project, I decided to do a similar study as the one I am trying to do at PRI, by looking at anxiety related behaviors before and during provisioned feeding of the monkeys in Kojima. It was a great practice and we were able to conduct research for 2 days, but unfortunately the weather stopped us half way and we had to leave for the station earlier than planned. Although I was not able to gather enough data to present any statistical analysis of great importance, I was able to present and hand in a report that was reviewed and I received much needed and insightful feedback. As well as, I did learn many methods and things I should take into account for my own research conducted at PRI.</p> <p>I used this opportunity to learn how to try to modify and adapt certain methods of collecting behavioral data as well as other factors to consider when researching stress in primates in my own project at PRI and Onobora. It was a great opportunity to have a hands on experience of what it takes to go out into the field and try to find answers to your own questions. I would definitely recommend this experience to anyone, even if they are not studying ecology or Japanese Macaques.</p> <p>Finally, I am very grateful to the professors and staff at the station who helped me identify the animals and give me some much needed help to do better research.</p> |

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



The 2015 Ecology Field Course at Kojima, Japan.



Two Japanese Macaques grooming at the beach on our first day.

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



A female Japanese Macaque welcoming us at the island and waiting to get some treats!