

**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.)

2015. 05, 18	
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<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Koshima, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
Decision-making in semi-wild Japanese macaques
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2015. 05. 06 – 2015. 05. 14 (09 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Dr. Sugiura and Dr. Nakamura, Associate Professors at Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto University Takafumi Suzumura and Akiko Takahashi, Koshima station, Wildlife Research Center, Kyoto University
<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>As part of the PWS curriculum I joined the Koshima Field Science Course organized by the Wildlife Research Center. We were in total seven participants including four students. After a long trip via train and ferry we arrived at Koshima station on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We reached the Island on the 8<sup>th</sup> and were supposed to stay until the 11<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately because of a typhoon we had to come back to the field station earlier on the 10<sup>th</sup>. We stayed three days / three nights in total on the island. On May 11<sup>th</sup> we went to Cape Toi and on the 12<sup>th</sup> we worked on our study project analyzing the data and presenting the results.</p> <p><u>Study project</u></p> <p>During our time on the island we conducted our own research project.</p> <p>As my doctoral research is about social communication in great apes, I developed a preliminary study about decision making in social interactions with a focus on which individual initiates and ends the social interaction.</p> <p>From May 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, I followed eleven individuals: three adult males, six adult females, one juvenile male, and one infant male. Data were collected using 30-minutes focal sampling with a total of five hours and thirty minutes of observations. I carried out ad libitum data sampling of the following interactions: grooming, play, agonistics behaviors, and sexual behaviors. For each social interaction, I recorded which individual initiated and ended the interaction. I recorded whether it was the same individual which initiated and ended the interaction or if it was two different individuals.</p> <p>In total, amongst the eleven individuals I recorded eighteen agonistic interactions and sixteen grooming interactions. For the agonistic interactions, 100% were initiated by one individual and ended by another individual. For the grooming interactions, 75% were initiated and ended by the same individual and 25% were initiated and ended by different individuals. An individual which initiates a grooming interaction can be either the groomer starting the interaction by grooming or the recipient starting the interaction by approaching and soliciting. I was interested to see if the individual which grooms is the one which makes end the interaction or if it is the recipient which makes end the interaction. I found that in 94% of the grooming interactions the groomer was also the individual which ends the interaction.</p> <p>To summarize, the agonistic interactions were mainly initiated by one individual and ended by the other one. In this situation, the animal which was attacked does not really take the decision to end the interaction but simply escaped to limit injuries. The grooming interactions were mainly initiated and ended by the same individual and this individual is usually the groomer. However, it is difficult to draw any conclusions because this study had some important limitations with only five hours and thirty minutes over three days of observations and only eleven individuals.</p> <p><u>Camera trap</u></p> <p>On May 7<sup>th</sup>, on our first day at the field station we have set up five camera traps: three were placed in the forest near by the field station and two in the forest near by the beach. I selected an animal trail in the forest near by the beach to</p>

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set up my camera. The camera setting took place from May 7<sup>th</sup> at 17h28m24s to May 11<sup>th</sup> at 16h21m32s, that being a total duration of 70h53m08s (or 3, 95 days).

My camera trap took pictures and videos of two animals:

- One raccoon dog on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 19h26m42s.
- One rabbit on May 10<sup>th</sup> at 00h09m52s.

With only 2 shots during 3, 95 days, the frequency is equal to 0, 51 shot/day.

Cape Toi

On May 11<sup>th</sup> we went to Cape Toi to observe semi-wild horses. Mares tend to give birth to foals in spring or summer. We were very luck to visit Cape Toi at this period of the year because in effect we were able to see some foals, maybe around five or six. I really enjoyed watching free-living horses. During ten years I practiced intense horse-back riding and being there, observing the horses, reminded me this period of my life.

I have already experienced field work in Malaysian Borneo as part of my master’s thesis. However it was the first time for me to camp directly on the field site. I have used this opportunity to learn about the basis of how to do field work without being in an accommodated field station such as learning how to make a fire camp, to set the tent, to cook and to cooperate with each other for the daily life. Through this experience, I have acquired essential skills that I will need in my future life of field researcher.

In general, this field course was so enriching for me in many aspects. First of all, I was really happy to discover the well-known Japanese macaques of Koshima Island. Japanese researchers were the pioneers of the primatology discipline starting fieldwork on Japanese macaques on Koshima Island in the late forties. Being a student in primatology at Kyoto university it was important for me to visit this field site. Moreover, I was the only foreigner of the group and I could exchange so much about Japanese culture. I am very happy to have met the participants of this course.



Ready to go!



Koshima Island

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Japanese macaques on the beach



Fire camp on the island



Sugiura-san, Takizawa-san, Natsuko-san, and Kotoyo-san



Horses in Cape Toi



Raccoon dog from a camera trap

## 6. Others

I would like to especially thank Prof. Nakamura and Prof. Sugiura to have accepted me as a PRI student to join the WRC Koshima field course. I would also like to thank Suzumura-san and Takahashi-san for their warm welcome at the field station.