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.)

	2016. 06, 03
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Kota Kuroki

1. Country/location of visit

Yakushima, Kagoshima Pref., Japan

2. Research project

Yakushima field science course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2016. 05. 21 – 2016. 05. 27 (7days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Primatology and Wildlife Science Leading Graduate Program, 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.

In this course, the participants were divided into 3 groups, monkey, deer, and fig/insects group. I belonged to monkey group. In monkey group, we investigated the activities of the gut microbes in Japanese macaque in Yakushima (*Macaca fuscata yakui*).

Below is the schedule of this course;
5/21 Arriving at Yakushima, observing monkeys, deer, and plants in Yakushima
5/22~24 Collecting samples of monkeys' feces in field, experiments at Lab in station
5/25 Experiments, preparing for the presentation
5/26 Presentation
5/27 leaving Yakushima

Field activity
To get the gut microbes of monkeys, we collected fresh feces of moneys by following the troops in lowland and highland of Yakushima island. After getting feces, we packed, vacuumed, and took them to the station. We recorded the location information and the color of feces. We got 26 samples in total (14 in lowland and 12 in highland).

Lab activity
The samples were measured the weight, suspended with buffer (pH 6.8), and mixed with either Hisakaki (*Eurya japonica*) leaves powder or cellulose powder. The mixture was incubated 24hr in an anaerobic condition for fermentation. We measured the amount of CO2 gas production from samples every 6hr. After 24hr, we measured pH.
As a consequent, production of CO2 gas from the feces of monkeys in highland was higher than that in lowland even when both substrate (leaves and cellulose powder) was mixed. Furthermore, the pH of highland samples was lower than that of highland samples.

It was first time for me to do some field works. I learned the importance of the research using wildlife, not bred animals. I will research keeping in mind the interaction between animals and ecological environment.

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Grooming Japanese macaque

The member of monkey team

Photo by Nurul Ain Mohd Sharif

6. Others