

**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.)

2016.06.04

<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Graduate school of Asian and African Area Studies / M1
<b>Name</b>	Ryoma OTSUKA

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Yakushima
<b>2. Research project</b>
Yakushima Field Science Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2016.05.21-2016.05.27 (7 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Professor Hanya (Primate Research Institute, 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>During 2016.05.21-2016.05.27 I joined Yakushima Field Science Course and I was a member of Monkey team in this course.</p> <p>2016/05/21 : go to Yakushima from Itami airport by plane          2016/05/22 : collect fecal samples in lowland/labo work          2016/05/23 : labo work / collect fecal samples in lowland          2016/05/24 : collect fecal samples in western highland / labo work          2016/05/25 : labo work / analysis, prepare for presentation          2016/05/26 : presentation, party          2016/05/27 : clean up, sightseeing, go back to Kyoto</p> <p>During this visit, Monkey team conducted research on digestibility of gut microbe in Japanese macaques (<i>Macaca fuscata yakui</i>) in Yakushima island. The island is the southern limit of distribution of Japanese macaques and the habitat varies considerably with altitude from coastal warm temperate broad-leaved forest to subalpine grassland (Hanya 2003).          Macaques' diets vary according to the distribution (altitude). For example Fiber was the most important food category for the macaques in the high-zone forest, whereas it was the second most important food in the low- and middle-zone forests (Hanya 2003).          The main question of this study was “How gut microbe contribute to the digestibility of host animal (Japanese macaque)”. We tried to understand difference between highland macaques and lowland macaques. I went to lowland twice and western-highland once to collect fecal samples of macaques and got some samples. In the laboratory of the station, I prepared for fermentation of gut microbes in these fecal samples. After we start the fermentation, we checked and recorded the amount of generated gas every 6 hours (until 24 hours).          I used this opportunity to learn how to collect fecal samples of macaques, how to evaluate digestibility of gut microbe in laboratory and how to analyze the data we got from the experiment. Even though it was really hard to do field work and tough labo work at the same time, I was really excited because we could get an ideal result from the experiment.</p> <p>In this course, we used mainly English. We communicated and discussed a lot on the result in English. Through this experience, I found that I can communicate with inviters using very simple English and I decided not to hesitate to use English.</p>

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Beach in front of the station



Blue sky and sea



Shiratani Unsuikyo



Sucking



Hugging



Feeding on the tree



Cute baby

**6. Others**

I really appreciate PWS and Dr.Hanya, Dr.Ushida, Dr.Sawada, Dr.Nishikawa and everyone who stayed together during this course.