

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.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute /M2
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1. Country/location of visit
Iriomote island, Okinawa prefecture
2. Research project
Iriomote practice
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
24th – 28 th , October, 2016 (5days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Ryukyu 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.
<p>I joined Iriomote practice, whose objectives were to learn ecosystems of Iriomote island, to experience operating drone. I had been interested in nature of Okinawa and had looked forward to joining. The schedule was as follow.</p> <p>24th: entering to Iriomote island 25th: trekking, practice for drone 26th: practice for drone, kayaking and trekking 27th: snorkeling, practice for drone 28th: leaving from island</p> <p>In trekking, I observed various plants, some species of lizards, and fortunately a Ryukyu boar. I was questioned why there are only a few mammalian species in spite of so diverse plants. Given that fossils of mammals were found in this Iriomote, they might exist but have got extinction. Small size of this island keep population of large mammals small. Then small population would get extinction easily.</p> <p>And I operated drone. This was the first time for me to use it. Handling was not so difficult, but to use it safely or to settle many optional functions, there are many things we have to study. And battery is finished relatively soon. In addition, the sound of flying was big, being expected to stimulate animals. Although there are many difficulties to apply wildlife researches, one way might be to investigate vegetation on the so high trees, where human cannot access easily. Drone may allow us to acquire important ecology data at so high place continuously and easily.</p> <p>In kayaking, I imagined wild primate researches in Southern Asia or Amazon using kayak. I guessed that using kayak every morning before primate researches in the forest may be so exhausting. Then researchers studying there would employ local assistants and make them row. I wonder I could get an experience to look for wild primates on the large river.</p> <p>In snorkeling, I observed various organisms at Iriomote. Compared to mammals, marine organisms were so diverse and observation for them were so enjoyable. But swimming for a long time and walking on coral were a bit tough for me. In field work, whichever in the forest or in the sea, getting used to each field would be very important.</p> <p>In total this practice was so wonderful. I developed my interests in nature of subtropical zone in Japan. I would like to visit other islands around Iriomote, and understand it more and more.</p>

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Iriomote Station of Ryukyu University



Flowers of hibiscus



Mangrove forests



Drone

6. Others

This program was supported by PWS Leading Program. I would like to appreciate this program, collaborators of Ryukyu University, and many staff of this practice.