

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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1. Country/location of visit
Zigoku-dani, Japan
2. Research project
Observation of Japanese macaque in Jigoku-dani
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017 Feb.4- Feb.5
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Prof. Yumoto, PRI

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)

I visited to Jigoku-dani with Prof. Yumoto, Prof. Raubenheimer and Ms. Hazehara. Jigoku-dani is well known as the place where Japanese macaques take hot spring. Many people visit the place even from abroad but I’ve never been there. Therefore I have thought that I should visit there some day so it was very good chance for me. Actually during two days, over half of visitors there were from abroad. In Jigoku-dani monkeys are provisioned and maybe that’s why there were many babies there even though it was very cold. We observed some monkeys eating bark or bud of Cedar trees.



Up : walking on the snow
 Left: a monkey eating buds
 Right: a monkey eating bark



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During our observation almost always some individuals were taking a bath and sometimes as much as 20 monkeys were in a bath. Among all monkeys there, only individuals who belong to dominant family can take a hot spring. Some individuals were drinking hot spring. I’m interested in whether they do that because they like the warm temperature of hot spring or they like mineral which contained in hot spring. I was also curious about when they got out the bath. Do they get out when they feel they got enough warm? After they got out the bath they were wet and they looked very cold. However, I found it is said that monkeys are not cold after taking bath because monkeys have less sweat glands, their hair do not absorb water, and blood vessels of monkeys in cold area constrict quickly (<http://mainichi.jp/articles/20160106/ddm/013/040/009000c>).

Observation of “snow monkey” reminds me of what I saw when I visited Lincoln Park Zoo two years ago. I saw Japanese monkeys who came from Japan Monkey Centre there. The zoo made hot spring for them but they didn’t use it. They did not take a bath because “taking a hot spring” is a culture of monkeys only in Jigoku-dani?

We observed Japanese macaques for three hours on each day. I was very satisfied to observe maybe most famous Japanese monkeys around the world!



Monkeys look very relaxed
Some monkeys were grooming in the hot spring

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A monkey drinking hot spring



They looked cold after taking a bath



Basic posture during taking a bath



A mother and an infant taking a bath



Japanese serows (a mother and the calf)

6.Others

I thank to Prof. Yumoto and Prof. Raubenheimer and Ms. Hazehara for their kindness during this trip. This trip was supported by PWS program. I appreciate PWS program..