



**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.)

2017. 7. 17	
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Wildlife Research Center/M1
<b>Name</b>	Yutaro Sato

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan/ Kagawa prefecture, Land of Monkeys at Choshikei
<b>2. Research project</b>
Shodoshima Field Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2017. 7. 5 – 2017. 7. 7 (3 days)
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Dr. Kunio Watanabe, former Professor at Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University Dr. Shun Hongo, Assistant teaching staff at 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.
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 60%;"> <p>The aim of this course was to observe Japanese macaques (<i>Macaca fuscata</i>) living in Choshikei, Shodoshima Island. Monkeys there show a high level of social tolerance. In winters, Japanese macaques sometimes form “monkey balls” to cope with the low temperature. Shodoshima monkeys are known to form a much larger monkey ball compared with other troops. Observing various groups with its own unique features will help us understand the species.</p> <p>In Land of Monkeys at Choshikei, there were many immatures (Fig. 1). This may be due to provisioning by humans. Monkeys there seemed different from other groups in other aspects: first, there were more monkeys with blue eyes than usual (Fig. 2). Second, regarding to their social feature, the distance between individuals were relatively small especially during the feeding time (Fig. 3), which is thought to reflect their tolerance to other individuals. What was interesting was that some individuals began to handle stones immediately after feeding (Fig. 4). Even when there remained some foods on the ground, they gathered stones suitable for playing with, carried them, and were absorbed in handling them a little far away from where others were eating foods. Not only immatures but also adults performed such a behavior. There may be many convenient-sized stones there. Or, considering that stone-handling is one of the stress coping strategies for monkeys, Shodoshima monkeys may feel stressed in competitive situations.</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; text-align: center;">  <p>Figure 1. Photo of an infant monkey in Shodoshima. Infants often hold onto their mother’s waist.</p>  <p>Figure 2. I got the impression that there were more monkeys with blue eyes than usual.</p> </div> </div>

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PWS programs have provided me with good opportunities to observe some Japanese macaque troops such as Koshima Island, Yakushima Island and Shodoshima Island. These groups have its own characteristics in terms of physical or social properties. Japanese macaque is one of the most popular wild animals in Japan and at the same time, an important animal based on which Japanese primatology has been developing. I hope to see other troops like Simokita Peninsula or Kinkazan Island. Moreover, I suppose learning about relationships between monkeys and modern human societies in Japan will help us to understand the Japanese macaques more comprehensively.



Figure 3. The scene of feeding time. Many monkeys gathered close and ate crops or vegetables.



Figure 4. An adult male handling stones.

## 6. Others

I am grateful to Dr. Watanabe and Dr. Hongo at Primate Research Institute for their kind help. I also thank to the staffs of the Land of Monkeys at Choshikei for their cooperation during the practice.