

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	University of Oxford, Research Assistant
Name	Zoe Melvin

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima Island, Japan
2. Research project
Study on geographic distribution of mtDNA haplotypes in Yakushima Macaques (<i>Macaca fuscata yakui</i>)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
Arrive in Japan: 31/10/2017 – Depart from Japan: 6/12/17
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Sugiura, Professor at Wildlife Research Centre, 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.
<p>During this visit, I conducted a week-long field course on Yakushima Island to observe the behavior of the macaques and collect fecal samples.</p> <p>I used this opportunity to learn how to collect primate fecal samples with individual IDs or identifying information. Through this experience, I have developed a clear vision on how to cope with the difficulties of collecting fecal samples from wild primates and how to collect and store fecal samples preventing contamination and optimizing DNA extraction in the lab. This has wide reaching implications for the future conservation of many different species. The skills I have gained are generic skills that can be applied to genetic fecal sampling of many terrestrial mammals. In particular, it will be extremely useful in my future work on primate species.</p>

Adult female grooming adult male of one of the study groups. Grooming was one of the most common behaviours we observed.

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Monkey field team at the top of Shiratani Unsui-Kyo Gorge

6. Others