

**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. 11. 22
<b>Affiliation/Position</b>	Primate Research Institute/M1
<b>Name</b>	Wanyi Lee

<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Iriomote Island, Japan
<b>2. Research project</b>
Iriomote Field Course
<b>3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)</b>
2017.11.11-11.15
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
Prof. Matsuzawa, Prof. Koshima, Prof. Fukushima and Prof. Kawakami
<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 the period of 11-15 November, we visited the Iriomote Tropical Biosphere Research Center of University of the Ryukyus and had rewarding experience with the tropical island of Iriomote. We have three days respectively for three different themes mangrove, coral and Iriomote cat. I think it is very rewarding to learn about the special ecosystem on Iriomote Island, which is quite different from the main island of Japan. During our stay in Iriomote, the weather was not so good, so we changed our schedule to cope with weather. Brief schedule of the trip is as followed:</p> <p>11/11 Arrived Iriomote</p> <p>11/12 Short lecture on mangrove Excursion around mangrove forest River Kayaking Urauchi-River cruise</p> <p>11/13 Lecture on coral reef ecosystem Snorkeling</p> <p>11/14 Lecture on Iriomote cat Camera trap and fecal content observation Tour of Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center</p> <p>11/15 Returned to Inuyama</p> <p>On the day to visit mangrove, the rain was very heavy. Although we had excursion in relatively heavy rain, I still enjoyed it. As far as I am concerned, Iriomote mangrove forest is one of the largest mangrove forests in Japan. We got to observed many special kinds of organisms during the excursion, especially the mangrove tree and some crustaceans. While enjoying excursion, we learned the difficulties that may be encountered by field workers in mangrove, like getting stuck in mud. On the same day, we also did river kayaking, and I paired with Nishida sensei. Kayaking was a fun way to observe mangrove while training cooperation between two rowers. We also cruised the Urauchi River to observe the mangrove; it is similar to kayaking but we can travel faster and farther. During the kayak and cruise, we observed the transition of vegetation from brackish water to freshwater.</p>

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In the next day, we had a short lecture on coral reef ecosystem and had a look on different coral exhibits. Afterwards, we went for snorkeling. Even though the weather was still not so pleasant, things under the sea was very peaceful. The corals in the two sites we visited were very impressive. I saw all kinds of the corals that the professor introduced in lecture. Sadly, we also can see some remains of coral bleaching from an extreme hot event. Fortunately, there is sign of regrowth in the area. This experience made me more appreciate the coral reef, which is so beautiful yet vulnerable.

For the last lecture, we had a talk on Iriomote cats, the only carnivorous mammal on the island and are endemic to the island. According to Izawa sensei, the cats utilize all kinds of environment on the island, including wetland and forest. To utilize the limited resource on the island, they are generalist and opportunist on diet. However, the cat has little population for about 100-150 individuals. Their biggest threat would be from the humans, and especially the vehicles. After the lecture, we also had look at the camera trap data, and we finally can find the cat in the record. From the fecal content observation, we found three kinds of diet the cat may have – bird, rat and crab. We also visited some structures like cat fence and underpass built to reduce the road kill incident. We also had a tour of Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center.

Overall, I really enjoyed this field course. It allows me to learn more about the nature in Japan while having relaxation out of my research routine. I am looking forward to the next trip.



Figure 1. Mangrove species and its special viviparous seed



Figure 2. Excursion in mangrove



Figure 3. Urauchi-River cruise



Figure 4. River kayaking in heavy rain

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Figure 5. Snorkeling



Figure 6. A branching coral serving as refuge for juvenile fish

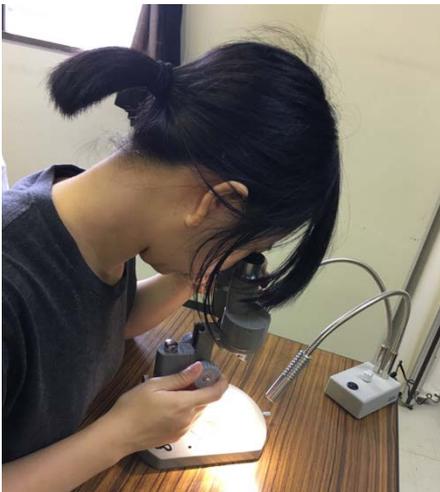


Figure 7. Observing fecal content using microscope



Figure 8. Camera trap in Iriomote cats' habitat

## 6. Others

I am grateful to PWS office for organizing and supporting this trip! I thank Matzuzawa san, and Koshima san, Fukushima san and Kawakami san for guiding us during the course. I also thank professors and staffs from the University of Ryukyus.