

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	Wildlife Research Center/M1
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1. Country/location of visit
Iriomote island, Okinawa prefecture, Japan
2. Research project
Iriomote field course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2017.11.11~2017.11.15 (5 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Vice president of Ryukyu university, the staffs of Tropical biosphere research center
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>【schedule】</p> <p>November 11 : Arrived at Iriomote island, Guidance about use of the facility</p> <p>November 12 : Walking around Mangrove forest, river kayaking, the cruise in Urauchi bay</p> <p>November 13 : Lecture on coral reef organisms, observing under the sea by snorkeling</p> <p>November 14 : Lecture on Iriomote cat, Analysis with pictures of camera trap and observation of dung by microscope</p> <p>November 15 : Departure day</p> <p>We had the opportunity to visit Iriomote island, one of the southwest islands in Japan. The purpose of this field course is to learn the subtropical ecology of Iriomote island. We unfortunately had a lot of rain all the day, but it was good opportunity to experience subtropical climate and observe wildlife such as amphibian. I was glad to directly experience the environment in mangrove forest.</p> <p>On the second day, we walked around mangrove forest. I was surprised the color of sand in the forest. It was deep black made from organic compounds from fallen leaves, animal corpus, and excrement. I felt the sulfuric smell due to decomposition by microorganisms there. It was good experience since I firstly saw and touch the mangrove forest there.</p> <p>On the third day, we had a lecture on coral reef organisms. We went to the sea and observed coral reefs. It was warm in the sea even in the rain outside. We enjoyed snorkeling and observed a lot of corals and organisms there. However I saw some coral bleaching there. One of the professors said it is because of current sea level rise. It was impressive for me because they have been directly affected by climate changes.</p> <p>On the final day, we firstly had a lecture about Iriomote cat which lives only in Iriomote island, then we went to the forest to collect camera traps and their feces. We unfortunately could not find Iriomote cats in the cameras, but we found other animals such as wild pigs. Then, we analyzed the contents of feces in the laboratory. We also observed a lot of species in the feces, for example, birds, amphibians, and plants. It was interesting to know the cats eat many kind of foods in order to survive in this island. I also heard about a problem names “secondary roadkill” from the lecturer. They come to the road for catching amphibians which die by roadkill, and it causes car accidents of the cats and eagles sometimes. We should think about this problem and the solution. Fortunately, many people are making efforts for preventing these tragedies. Underpasses for wildlife have been dug under the main roads, and some fences were installed on the sides of roads. Moreover, we saw the road map in the Iriomote Wildlife Conservation Center. The staffs collected the information of observation and roadkill from the residents in the islands, then showed the places on the map. It helps people to pay attention about wildlife, and try safe driving. These efforts are important for coexisting with wildlife in these islands where more tourists may come in the future.</p>

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Fig 1. mangrove forest

Fig 2. Sand of mangrove forest

Fig 3. River kayaking



Fig 5. Camera trap



Fig 4. Snorkeling



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Fig 6. Fences for saving wildlife from roadkill



Fig 7. Group photo



6. Others

This field course was financially supported by PWS. I appreciate to PWS for providing me this opportunity. I would also like to express my gratitude to all the lecturers, staffs and my team members.