

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.)

		2018.6.1
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1	
Name	Shenwen Xu	

1. Country/location of visit
Japan/ Koshima Islet, Miyazaki prefecture
2. Research project
Koshima Field Science Course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018.4.21 – 2018.4.29 (9 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Koshima field station, Wildlife Research Center, 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.

Koshima Field Science Course was the first project provided us an opportunity to do wild animal observation. The main purpose through this one-week trip was to learn the basis of wildlife research. Even though I have heard some stories about Imanishi sensei and his pioneering work which conducted in Koshima before, to actually be in Koshima was far more impressive than I anticipated.

Roughly schedule and main events of each day during the course was as follows:

- Day 1 (Apr. 21, Sat) Depart from Inuyama
- Day 2 Arrive at Koshima field station; Lecture by Mr. Suzumura
- Day 3 Preliminary observation; trekking on Koshima
- Day 4 Visit Cape Toi
- Day 5 A talk from the guest Dr. Islamul Hadi; Drone test drive
- Day 6 Data collection and data analyses
- Day 7 Presentation
- Day 8 Observation of body weight measurement on Koshima; Leave from Koshima
- Day 9 Arrive in Inuyama

Eight newcomers including me of PRI of this year attended this trip supervised by Dr. Yamato Tsuji and Dr. Hiroyuki Tanaka. We had a guest from University of Mataram, Indonesia -- Dr. Islamul Hadi. He is an expert in Long-tailed Macaques. Since he's recent study interest is on fish-eating behavior, he was now planning to investigate this behavior in Japanese Macaques of Koshima group. Mr. Suzumura supported our stay at Koshima field station and guided us on the islet.

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We visited Koshima on Day 3 and Day 6. We got a short ferry to the islet, arrived the sandy seashore of Odomari beach (it is also the feeding site) around 9.00 AM every morning. The main group was already there at that time. There were roughly 50 individuals on the beach. My study theme of this stay was about nipple preference, specifically aimed to find some clues of if this lateralized behavior is imposed by mother, such as the side preference of maternal cradling, or by infant's instinctive choice. We were able to conduct research for around 6 hours in total in two days, one day for preliminary observation and the other day for primary study. It was less than we planned due to bad weather conditions, and we were unable to do much observation on the islet or take enough data during this stay. Even the data I obtained during this study period was lack of scientific validity, I tried to sum up them somehow, gave presentation of this study on Day 7 and summarized it as a report after we went back to PRI. It was a quite good practice and impressive learning for me to understand better about working in the field site following wild animals by experiencing failure.

In addition to the main study, I was able to observe wheat-washing behavior of two individuals who belong to high ranking lineage. The interesting thing to me was that it looks certainly like that not all members but limited individuals were able to stay near by the only stream on the beach where individuals could access it and wash wheat there easily. Which may indicate high ranking individuals get benefits from dominance hierarchy, it is one of the most distinct features that characterized macaques. After the main observation, we were fortunate to have an opportunity walk through the forest of monkeys ranging area led by Suzumura-san. It was my first experience to walk along with monkeys in the forest and it definitely changed my image of monkeys. Either how individuals move or how different members dispersed was totally different in the forest compare to the feeding site. We also had a visit to Cape Toi, the place where Prof. Imanishi and his students started wild horse's study. During their stay, they meet Japanese monkeys unexpectedly, and later, they conducted the first scientific observation in wild Japanese macaques on Koshima. Now, Koshima becomes famous as the birthplace of field primatology. Besides the improvement of academic skills, to live in a group and to share time with other colleagues was also bringing me a lot of new experiences. This trip provided us a good chance what we usually do not have, to communicate new colleagues in many different situations or when facing different type of tasks. All in all, to witness the historical place of primatology in Japan during this course was a grateful experience to help us to develop a vision for the future.

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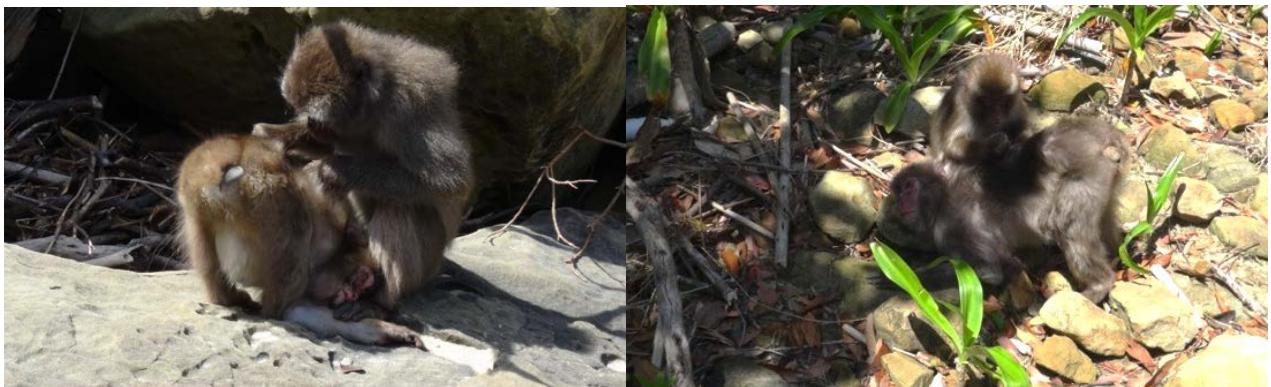
PHOTOS:



Kinoko'2017 was using both sides of nipple during this study period.



Alpha male Shika was showing a boss-like pose.



Relaxed or not relaxed?

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Step-formed food marks made by horses of Cape Toi.



Improvised lecture hold by students, who are expertise in fecal sample analyzing and morphology.

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Nothing differentiates a researcher from a hunter, a cook, or a musician.



Group photo from a bird's-eye view.

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6. Others

I appreciate PWS for conducting and supporting this trip, providing us a really nice opportunity to start our research life from visiting Koshima. I thank Kyoto University Wildlife Research Center for supporting research use of the Koshima field station. I would like to thank Yamato Tsuji sensei, Hiroyuki Tanaka sensei for general help, and Takafumi Suzumura san for instructive advices.