

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

2018. 6. 7

Affiliation/Position	Wildlife Research Center (D1)
Name	Kristin Havercamp

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima Island, Japan
2. Research project
PWS Field Science Course to conduct a survey of Japanese macaques living on Yakushima Island
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018. 05. 19 – 2018. 05. 25 (7 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Hanya-san, Sawada-san, Honda-san, Kurihara-san, Shinohara-san & Kudo-san; 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 the field course, one of the main goals of the monkey group was to collect data on macaque presence in human-impacted environments on Yakushima island. We wanted to examine in which sort of environment the monkeys are present, and if this is influenced by land-use (e.g. crops, plantations, distance to village). After three days of fieldwork (all of us split up into different areas and individually censused roads), we were able to cover many logging roads and paths on Yakushima island; when our data is added to that collected the previous year, all logging roads on the island are covered. We collected data on feces detections, vocalizations and direct observations, however the majority of these were feces detections (402/415, so 97%).</p> <p>Day 1 (5/19) We travelled as a group to Yakushima by charter plane. We were picked up at the airport and went to a restaurant where we ate a delicious Japanese meal, then travelled to the PWS field station/house where we would stay. We then drove to the western part (Seibu) of the island where many of our course supervisors regularly conduct research and where many of the macaques are habituated to humans. We observed many macaques grooming alongside the road, along with deer trailing behind them (the deer eat the fresh feces of macaques).</p> <p>Day 2 (5/20) In the morning we returned to Seibu to observe macaques and deer, then returned to the station to determine a protocol for data collection in the afternoon. Some of us travelled to our first site (Shiratani) for data collection, where we conducted a census using a GPS to mark feces detections on one road as a group. Back at the station we discussed how we could improve our methods, such as the distance we cover. After dinner, we set up QGIS and imported our data from the first day.</p> <p>Day 3 (5/21) My second day of data collection took place along Shiratani-Miyanoura road (I covered half of the road near one entrance of Yakushima National Park, Taki-san covered the other half). It was extremely rainy and windy, so much that the streets were running with water and within five minutes my boots were completely soaked through. Some Japanese people visiting the national park must have felt bad for me, because they pulled their car over and asked me if I needed a ride. I tried to explain in broken Japanese that I was doing research, but that I appreciated the gesture. To my surprise, I detected 58 feces, some fresh, others old. After lunch, and still completely soaked, we covered a street in the town below then headed back to the station. We were lucky enough to be able to eat fresh tofu made in Nagata that night, prepared by the wonderful chef! After dinner we imported our GPS data, logged our notes and detections, then worked more in QGIS.</p> <p>Day 4 (5/22) The third day of data collection was probably the nicest; the weather was enjoyable and Seema, Taki-san, Sawada-san and I got to cover many unique roads and paths nearby crop fields that had really beautiful views. We went to many different places before and after lunch, one time I even passed a (cow) farm, covering a large area nearby Hirauchi</p>

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”

village. On the way driving there, Sawada-san let us get out of the car to observe the many macaques and deer on the road, and after fieldwork we were able to visit a local onsen and then an incredible waterfall (Ohko-no-taki – it was written that it is one of Japan’s top 100 falls). Afterwards, she even brought us to the local tofu shop in Nagata where we had the freshest soy milk I’ve ever tasted and some tofu to bring back to the station. In the evening we again ate a yummy dinner and downloaded and edited our GPS data.

Day 5 (5/23)

We spent the entire day working with our data and on QGIS, from early in the morning until late at night.

Day 6 (5/24)

In the morning and early afternoon we continued working, then presented our results as a group in the afternoon.

Day 7 (5/25)

We packed, cleaned, then left the PWS station to go on a hike in the national park before flying back to Osaka.

During this field course I learned how to use a GPS to collect track and detection points/data and QGIS to map these data points to study macaque presence in different land-use areas. We also learned how important it is to manage and organize data at the end of every day of fieldwork and how to best work together in a large group. I really enjoyed getting to know other Kyoto University students and the visiting CETBio international researchers.



Individuals grooming on the side of the road.



A macaque in the trees alongside the road.



A view of the beautiful forests and mountains in Yakushima.



A mother and her offspring.

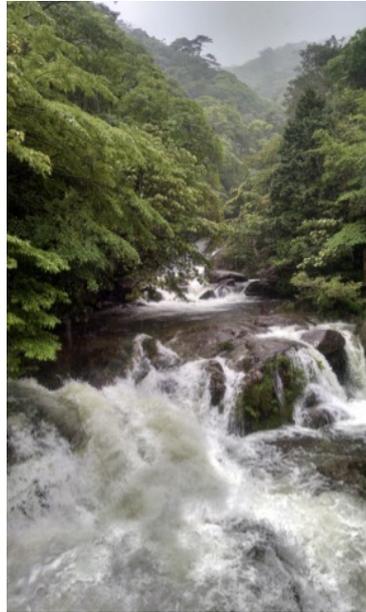
Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”



Grooming session.



Group working late to organize and analyze data.



Macaques on the road. / A strong waterfall caused by a storm during data collection. / A macaque foraging with a view.



Feces!!

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”



A view of the PWS Field Station from the beach.



Celebrating our hard work with a BBQ.



Saying goodbye.

6. Others

I am thankful to PWS for providing me with the opportunity to visit Yakushima Island, to Hanya-san, Sawada-san, Honda-san, Kurihara-san, Shinohara-san and Kudo-san for organizing the trip and supporting us throughout the week, and to the other students who made the trip extra enjoyable. And to the excellent chef who made every single one of our delicious meals – おいしかったです！