

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.)

2019. October, 15	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Mikuho Yokoyama

1. Country/location of visit
Kyodai Sasagamine Hutte, Myoko, Nigata; Jigokudani YAEN-KOEN, Shimotakai, Nagano
2. Research project
Sasagamine field science course
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2019. October. 2 – 2019. October. 5 (4 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Shigeru Sugiyama, Specially Appointed Professor at WRC; Dr. Tetsuro Matsuzawa, Distinguished Professor at Institute for Advanced study; Dr. Seiko Fukushima, Program-specific Assistant Professor at WRC
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.
Schedule 10/2 Travel to Sasagamine, Taking a walk around the hutte, Lecture of map reading 10/3 Climbing Mt. Hiuchi (2462m) 10/4 Excursion around the hutte 10/5 Lecture of skiing, Observation of Japanese monkeys in Jigokudani monkey park, Travel to Inuyama
Day 1 We walked around the hutte. Since some leaves turned to be red, the view was very beautiful. After dinner, Dr. Matsuzawa and Dr. Sugiyama taught us how to read map and some points we should pay attention for tomorrow's hiking. I learned it was important to confirm these things in advance for safety hiking.
Day 2 We left the hutte at 5am and continued to walk for about 6 hours to the summit. I was impressed at the vegetation change with altitude. We also found some feces on the road, but it was difficult to confirm the species of that. At 11:00, we finally got to the summit. Since it became sunny, we could see beautiful views of mountains surrounding Mt. Hiuchi. On the way to the hutte, we encountered Japanese macaques. An adult male ate leaves on the branch and ran away after finding us. We decided to pursue them on the next day. At 5pm, we finally got to the hutte. I was exhausted but satisfied with beautiful views and monkeys.
Day 3 Our group walked in the forest and searched monkeys we encountered yesterday. Though we found a lot of food traces of wild grapes and feces including seeds and peels of wild grapes as soon as we left, it was very hard to find them. We walked so carefully that we paid attention even to the noise of foot and breathing. Finally, 3 hours later, an adult male appeared in front of us and started to eat wild grapes on the top of tree. After we came back to the hutte, we counted the number of wild grape seeds including two feces. Each of them had 300-400 seeds, so it was estimated that they ate about 150 grapes once.
Day 4 Dr. Sugiyama gave us a lecture about how to use skiing equipment. In winter, Sasagamine has a lot of snow and we can enjoy skiing in the mountain. I really want to join this course in winter. In the afternoon, we visited Jigokudani monkey park. Monkeys constructed a large group more than 100 members and they peacefully groomed each other. Although they bathe only in winter, we could see a infant one played in the hot spring.

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Fig 1. A beautiful view of Tengu-no-niwa



Fig 2. A large amount of food trace of wild grapes



Fig 3. Feces of Japanese monkey



Fig 4. A Japanese monkey eating seeds of Japonica Maxim



Fig 5. 395 wild grape seeds in feces



Fig 6. An infant of Japanese monkey bathing in hot spring

6. Others

I would like to thanks to Dr. Sugiyama, Dr. Matsuzawa, Dr. Fukushima, PWS for their supports. I also thank to all members joined this course.