

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.)

2014. MM, DD	
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/ Internship
Name	Xu Zhihong

1. Country/location of visit
Yakushima, Japan
2. Research project
Behavior and fecal sample collection and parasite examination of Yakushima-macaques (<i>Macaca fuscata yakui</i>)
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2016 Oct.15-Oct.21
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Dr. Sugiura and Dr. MacIntosh
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>In this week, I attended the field course as below. In this lesson, I was trained about the skills of field working, sample collecting and parasite analyzing. Also, we collected samples for the Chromo course later.</p> <p>Schedule Oct.15th: Arrival and Data collecting Oct 16th-18th: Data collecting Oct 19th: Sample analyzing Oct 20th: Presentation Oct 21st: Departure</p> <p>The most important things we focus on in this course are observing monkeys and collect samples from them. Every day, we separate into road team and forest team, one searching and following monkey only on the road, another will trace monkeys until it's too dangerous. In our field work, we mostly aimed at collecting feces samples, which will be analyzed in later lab work. And when we have enough samples, we separate another team to analyze them.</p> <p>At the first day, I go with the road team leading by Dr. MacIntosh. Monkeys will come to the road for many reasons, especially in mate season like now. It was a totally new experience for me. I have been with a large group of rhesus macaques for more than a month, but monkeys in Yakushima are totally different. They are very relaxed, just like humans around them are nothing. Not like provision group, their behaviors are more nature, without human influence. After visual observation, we start trying to collect feces samples. All we have to do is waiting the monkeys defecate. It sounds easy, but actually it's really difficult. We have to see the monkey defecating to make sure where the feces come from, but monkeys is always moving.</p> <p>At the second and third day, I follow the forest team leading by Dr. Sugiura. Not like the road team, forest team can enter the forest, so we can follow monkeys for longer time, but at the same time it's more difficult to following them in that complicate situation. Sugiura-sensei is really a good model for field workers, for him, walking in the forest just like walking in his own garden. And he knows so many things about the forest and monkeys, always teaching us some knowledge about them. It's much difficult to collect samples here comparing to the road, but we know much more about the monkeys, because here is where they should be. Funny part is, we are threatened by a group of nervous monkeys. We try to avoid meeting each other (we means human “we” and the monkeys), but we just keep meeting by coincidence.</p> <p>At the fourth day I joined the lab team for sample analyzing. This part is mostly about parasite</p>

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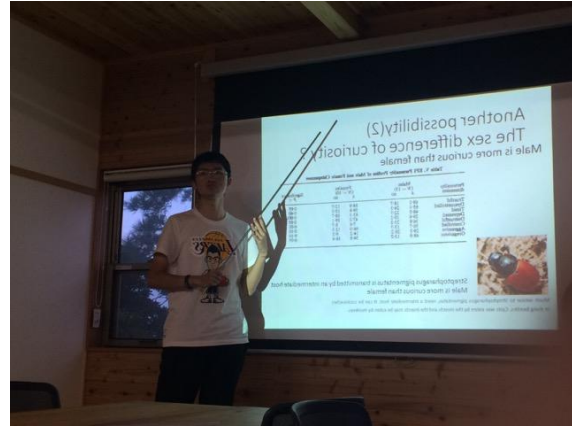
counting. With the help of Ms. Liesbeth Frias, I learned many things about parasite, and get used to analyze the parasite in feces. It's really fun watch the world through microscope.

After collecting all data, we start working on our presentation. We have to figure out a reasonable explanation, which is really difficult. But we finally finished a quite good job.

Thanks to this course, I have the chance to get more close to Japanese macaques, and collect samples. It really helps a lot for my future works.



Working in the lab



Final presentation

6. Others

I would like to thank Dr. Macintosh, Dr. Sugiura, Dr. Claire, Miss Liesbeth and PWS program.