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

	2017. 04, 29
Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/D1
Name	Raquel Costa

1. Country/location of visit

Koshima Island, Cape Toi, Miyazaki Prefecture, Japan

2. Research project

Koshima PWS Field Course

3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)

2017. 04. 23 – 2017. 04. 29 (6 days)

4. Main host researcher and affiliation

Mr. Suzumura (Station Manager) from Wildlife Research Center, Professor Tanaka and Professor Huffman, Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University

5. Progress and results of your research/activity

Koshima Island is a very important place for Primatology. It was in Koshima where in 1953, a team led by Dr. Imanishi, composed by Dr. Masao Kawai, Dr. Shunzo Kawamura, and Dr. Junichiro Itani, made a fantastic discovery. Researchers were at that time provisioning the macaques for a closer observation when, a young female named Imo started washing the sand off the sweet potatoes provided by the researchers (Kawai, 1965). This behaviour soon spread to the others group members and latter through generations. For the first time, the term 'culture' was associated with other non-human primate species.

When we first arrived to Koshima Field Station, we were received by Mr. Suzumura, who kindly introduced us to the station, the island and presented us an overview of the monkey's ecology and behaviour.

Next day, we headed to the Island. Because the tide was very low, we could walk from the mainland to the island directly, a very rare phenomenon. In this first day, we got to know the animals, their behaviour and some rules on how to interact with them in order to avoid aggression. We also got to the opportunity to think and decide which topic we would like to study during this course. Because in this first day I saw many juveniles grooming adults, I became interested in follow this topic, mainly observing grooming site preferences. Besides this day, we had two more days to collect data.


Fig. 1 to 2. Japanese monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*) infants after feeding in Koshima Island, Miyazaki, Japan.


Fig. 3 to 4. Japanese monkeys (*Macaca fuscata*) infants in Koshima Island, Miyazaki, Japan.

We were also presented the opportunity to visit Cape Toi, where we observed feral horses. In fact, this place is also very important to Primatology in Japan, because Dr. Imanishi was studying the feral horses here when he 'noticed' the Japanese monkeys. These horses are the descendants of army horses, who have been living wild from the last 300 years and were relocated in Cape Toi after the World War II. There are approximately 100 individuals in Cape Toi. Every year, the horses are gathered for an annual health check-up and desparasitation while infants are marked. This species is the only in Japan to be considered Natural Monument.

This field course grant me the opportunity to observe and collect data on behaviour of Japanese monkeys for the first time. I focused on juvenile behaviour to parallel my own research project. Hence, through these observations I gain more experience of infants' behaviour observation and it set a comparison basis. And because was not expecting to find grooming behaviour so much developed in infants, this makes me reconsider some points of my own research proposal project.


Fig. 5 to 6. Mother and infant (left) and male (right) feral horse in Cape Toi, Miyazaki, Japan.


Fig. 7 to 8. Male horse (left) and Cape Toi habitat for horses landscape (right), Miyazaki, Japan.


Fig. 9 to 10. Participant students (left) and Cape Toi habitat for horses landscape (right), Miyazaki, Japan.


Fig. 11 to 12. Young Male horse (4 years old) (left) and adult male horse outside the group, Cape Toi, Miyazaki, Japan.


Fig. 13 to 814. Mother-infant dyad (left) and adult male horse outside the group, Cape Toi, Miyazaki, Japan.

6. Others

I wish to express my gratitude to Mr. Suzumura, Professor Tanaka and Professor Huffman for their guidance and patience. I also want to thank my supervisors, Professor Misato Hayashi and Professor Tomonaga and my colleagues for their valuable help and the wonderful meals. I'm very thankful to PWS for supporting this training.