Intraspecific variation of Japanese macaques; its social relation and group composition

Shiro Horiuchi
(Meiji University)

Abstract:
Wild groups of Japanese macaques show a great intraspecific variation in their group composition among different habitats. The species is thus a good model to test the theory of socioecology, which tries to explain primate societies by ecological conditions. Particularly important ecological factor is the group density that directly affects the relation between neighboring groups, which in turn affects the relation within a group.
I at first introduce my fieldwork studies in Yakushima Island and Shimokita Peninsula populations; the group density is significantly different between the two. Then I show how the group density affects group size and male-female ratio in the groups of Japanese macaques by mathematical models, which are tested by empirical data.