192

THE INFLUENCE OF MOTHER'S FOOD ITEM ON INFANT'S FEEDING BEHAVIOR IN JAPANESE MACAQUES ON SHIMOKITA PENINSULA

H.Taniguchi

Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

Presenter's Email: haruka.t@kw3.ecs.kyoto-u.ac.jp

I studied dietary differences between mothers and infants, and its influence on infant behaviors in a wild group of Japanese macaques（*Macaca fuscata*）inhabiting the northern temperate region of Japan. This study was conducted during the winter (from November 2008 to April 2009) in Shimokita Peninsula, Aomori Prefecture. I observed 4 mother-infant pairs and simultaneously followed the infant and the mother within each of them. Their activities, food items, and the distance between the infant and its mother were recorded by scan sampling at 3 min intervals. I found significant differences between mothers and infants in the proportion of each food item in about one-fourth of all the food items. Thus, I categorized the food items into the following three categories: 1) "mother foods": the food items with the higher proportion in mother diet; 2) "infant foods": the food items with the higher proportion in infant diet; 3) "common foods": the food items which no significant difference was found between them. When mothers ate "common food" (e.g. seed, grass), infants often ate the same food items as their mothers within 2m. In contrast, when mothers ate "mother food" (e.g. bark), infants often ate "infant food" (e.g. dormant bud) apart from their mothers. Infants probably change their feeding behavior to meet their food requirement according to their mother's food items.

Keywords: Japanese macaques, feeding behavior, mother-infant difference, food selection