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LOCAL DIFFERENCES IN MATING PATTERNS IN JAPANESE MACAQUES (*MACACA FUSCATA*)

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Japanese macaque is classified as multiple-mounting species which need repetitive mounting to reach ejaculation. Such a series of mounting (MT) is called MT series, in which the duration, number of MT, and the number of thrust vary. This study examines local differences in mating patterns from the viewpoint of mating tactics. Field research was conducted on two groups originated from different populations, namely the E group living in the evergreen forest of lowland Yakushima and the A group living in the deciduous forest of Kinkazan. In both groups, alpha-males and adult females were selected as focal animals on a daily basis and followed from 9 September to 19 December 2005 for Yakushima and on 6-25 October 2007 for Kinkazan. Onset time of mounting, partners and the number of thrust in a MT were recorded for 162 in Yakushima and 38 MT series in Kinkazan. Except for alpha-male on which few data on mounting were collected, the following results were found: Irrespective of male class (group male or non-group male), 1) mean duration of MT series was longer in Kinkazan than in Yakushima; 2)mean number of MT and thrust was greater in Kinkazan than in Yakushima. Tactile stimulus by repetitive mountings and thrusts are said to increase the number of sperm ejaculated in non-human primates. Because of lower density of estrus females and adult males, cost of searching for mating partner seems to be higher in Kinkazan than in Yakushima. Thus, enhancing insemination rate in ongoing consort pair is more beneficial in Kinkazan than in Yakushima.

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