

## Ecology of Japanese dormouse in central mountainous area

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A Japanese dormouse *Glirulus japonicus* (TL 68~84mm) is arboreal small-sized mammal, which is endemic species in Japan and is designated as a Natural Monument in Japan. It is nocturnal and hibernates in winter, and rest in tree hollows etc. during daytime from spring to autumn. It inhabits forests in Honshu, Shikoku, Kyusyu and Dogo Isl. of the Oki Isls.

More information on the dormouse habitat distribution was collected from Central Japan, thus the many dormice may inhabit in central mountainous area (Sugiyama and Kadowaki, 2010).

Feces were collected from May to October in 2011, and food habits of the dormouse were examined by fecal analysis. Fragments in feces were identified to arthropods, rinds of fruits and others, pollens and seeds et al. Dormice fed arthropods and rinds of fruits in all months. More arthropods were examined in May, detection of rinds of fruits and others were apt to increase after August, and pollens were examined in spring. This trend supports the seasonal change of food habits of the Japanese dormouse that has suggested (Ochiai et al., 2011)

Daily rest sites of dormice were examined by radio tracking from June to September in 2010 and from June to November in 2011. Dormice used on tree and nest boxes settled to trees for the rest sites, but little used underground. Trees used by dormice for the rest site were thick (greater DHB) and had more hollows (Tamaki et al., 2011).

Ochiai, N., Kadowaki, S., Tamaki E. and M. Sugiyama. 2011. Food habits of a Japanese dormouse *Glirulus japonicus* by fecal analysis. The abstracts of the annual meeting 2011 of Japanese Alps Inter-University Cooperative Project: 121.

Sugiyama, M. and S. Kadowaki. 2010. Creation and publication of a habitat distribution map for the Japanese dormouse based on information available on the Web. Technical report, University of Tsukuba 31: 62-66.

Tamaki, E, Kadowaki, S., Ochiai N. and M. Sugiyama. 2011. Daily rest sites selection of a Japanese dormouse *Glirulus japonicus*. The abstracts of the annual meeting 2011 of Japanese Alps Inter-University Cooperative Project: 122.