

Japanese badger on Tamagawa Gakuen campus, Machida, Tokyo

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Japanese badger was captured on a motion-sensor camera on the Tamagawa Gakuen campus in Machida City, Tokyo, where no such record has been reported before. Although only two pictures were taken in July of 2018, possible establishment of Japanese badger on the campus is presumed because the species can inhabit small, urban green areas.

Keywords

Motion-sensor camera, Tama Hills, medium-sized carnivore

Japanese badger *Meles anakuma* is a medium-sized mammal inhabiting Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu¹⁾. In urban and suburban areas around Tokyo, inhabitation of the badger has been confirmed in Fuchu²⁾, Hachioji, Machida, and Kawasaki³⁾ (Fig.1).

On the Tamagawa Gakuen campus, easternmost of Machida, Tokyo, racoon dogs *Nyctereutes procyonoides viverrinus*, racoons *Procyon lotor*, masked palm civets *Paguma larvata*, and large Japanese field mouse *Apodemus speciosus* were recorded in monitoring studies conducted from 2009 to 2014⁴⁾. In 2018, however, our camera captured a Japanese badger for the first time in this area and the present paper reports the incident.

The study was conducted on the Tamagawa Gakuen campus located in southern part of Tama Hills (35°34' N, 139°28' E, 60 m to 110 m asl) (Fig.1). In 2017, the mean annual air temperature was 14.6°C, the mean maximum temperature was 36.7°C, and the mean minimum temperature of -5.9°C was recorded in Fuchu (the nearest meteorological station)⁵⁾.

The campus has a hill with topographic relief. Konara oak *Quercus serrata* and Sawtooth oak *Q. acutissima* trees are predominant, and artificial forests

with Japanese cedar *Cryptomeria japonica* and Hinoki cypress *Chamaecyparis obtusa* exist. Middle-sized mammals and many birds, such as Oriental Turtle Dove *Streptopelia orientalis* and Japanese Tit *Parus minor*, are common.

To explore what kinds of animals utilize latrines where racoon dogs defecate within their home range, a motion-sensor camera (ScoutGuard SG560C) was set up at each latrine (a total of five latrines) to capture animal images from May 7 to November 30, 2018.

A Japanese badger was photographed twice (Figs.2 and 3), at 8:30 PM on the 9th and at 7:22 PM on the 13th of July, at a latrine. The latrine was located in a small green area (25 m diameter) on a gentle slope with predominant *Cryptomeria japonica* trees and no understorey. Racoon dogs and masked palm civets were also photographed at this site.

Japanese badgers were reported to inhabit some similar, small green areas in Fuchu during summer²⁾. The Japanese badger was captured only in July in this study. Therefore, the Japanese badger may temporarily have inhabited the campus. However, the Tamagawa campus has a relatively large forest area and there is still a possibility that the badger has extended its distribution to the east and permanently inhabited the Machida area.

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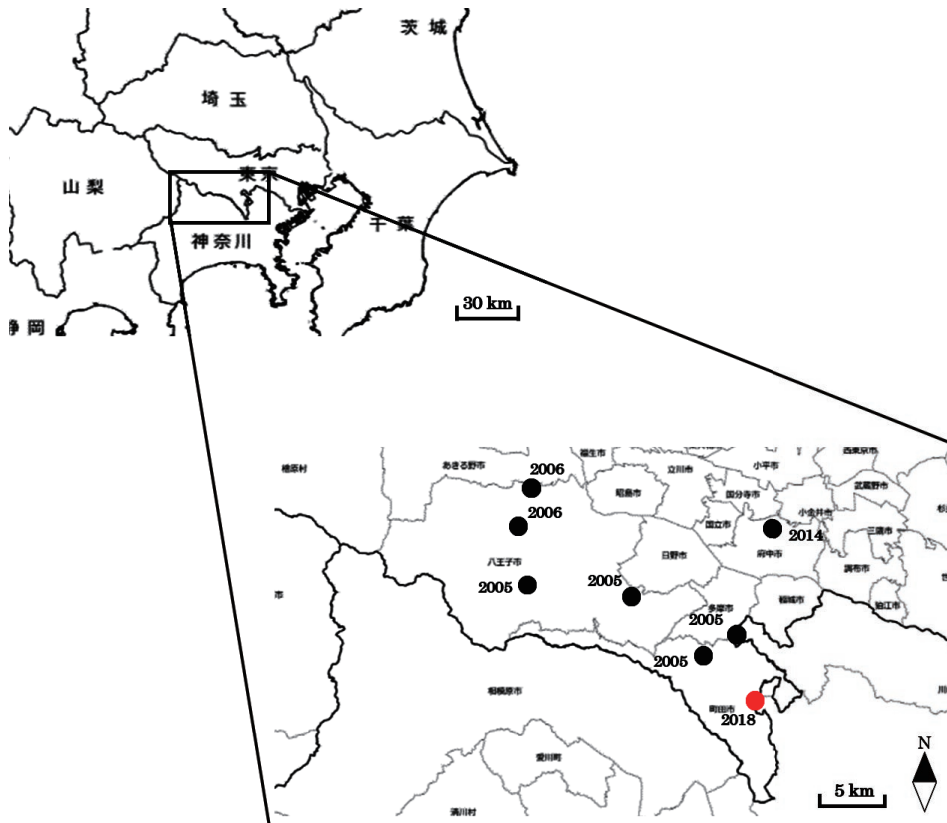


Fig. 1 Areas where Japanese badgers were confirmed in previous studies ^{2,3)} (black circles) and the area of the present study (red circle).

The number at each circle indicates the year the animal was confirmed .



Fig. 2 Location of Japanese badger being photographed on the campus.



Fig. 3 Japanese badger inhabiting in the campus.

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東京都町田市玉川学園キャンパスで 確認されたニホンアナグマ

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東京都町田市にある玉川学園で今まで確認されていなかったニホンアナグマがセンサーカメラで撮影された。撮影回数は7月中に2回のみではあるが、微小緑地での生息例があることから今後、玉川学園内にニホンアナグマが定着する可能性が考えられる。

キーワード

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