



Column Kijimun's Monologue

"Some mysterious secrets hidden in the University of the Ryukyus"

No.1 - The nature found in the Senbaru campus of the University of the Ryukyus (the 1st part)

4. Ryukyuan white-eye



Haisai, Kijimun yaibin! The theme of the column in this FY2019 is "Some mysterious secrets hidden in the University of the Ryukyus," we bimonthly offer you some interesting topics regarding the nature, the history or the culture of Okinawa.

For the first column, we asked Mr. Takeshi Sasaki from the Ryukyu University Museum (Fujukan) about the nature in

the Senbaru campus. Fujukan acquires a good reputation for its course of nature observation. They own over 170,000 exhibits regarding Okinawan nature, history, and culture. Especially, their collection of Okinawan nature is excellent. Admission is free for everyone,

why don't you go and see them! In the garden of Fujukan, you can find a biotope with various plants which have a close relation to human life, and you can make a nature observation freely. Sometimes, a kingfisher with beautiful blue feathers drops in too there.

"At the Senbaru campus, we can see a lot of birds, like a great cormorant or an osprey. And around the Senbaru pond, there are some owls too. When the night comes, a brown hawk-owl sings "Ho-ho-ho," and a Ryukyu scops owl sings "Koho, koho." You can listen to them singing from the top of the Kyuyo bridge." Mr. Sasaki taught us. It is amazing that we can watch even owls within the campus! In the coming season, we can also expect a ruddy kingfisher with bright red feathers flying to the University as migratory birds. Irukanda is a flower like a jade vine, and which you can see around the Senbaru pond in spring. It seems that the plant colony of irukanda around Senbaru pond is the largest one in Okinawa. The coming season is the time when the Okinawa *Habu* snakes (yellow-spotted pit viper) become active more and more, so be careful to the snakes hidden in the grass. According to Mr. Sasaki, in the Senbaru campus, we can see mongooses, *habu* snakes, *akamata* (Loo-choo big-tooth snake), Ryukyu keelbacks and *Amami takachiho* snakes.

In the summer, you can also find stag beetles in the campus; there are *Dorcus titanus okinawanus* (image 5) and Ryukyu sawtooth stag beetle. In the early summer, you can enjoy the beautiful landscape with the tiny light of fireflies as *Curtos Okinawanus* and *Pyrocoelia matsumurai* Nakane at the night campus. When it's raining, common treefrogs (alien species), Indian rice frogs and Okinawa green frogs come out to sing. Before, we could see bullfrogs too, but I'm not sure whether they still live on the campus now. If you hear them singing, don't forget to let us know that!

As you see, the University of the Ryukyus is surrounded by a lot of splendid nature. Why don't you take a rest and a stroll in the campus for your refreshing? Also, don't forget to visit Fujukan and don't miss the next column of "Kijimun's monologue!" (written by A.S., translated by C.S.)

*Many thanks to Mr. Takeshi Sasaki, assistant professor, museum curator of Fujukan
*Photo (#3, 4, 5, 7, 8) credit (Fujukan), all pictures were taken in the Senbaru campus



1. Entrance of Fujukan (the University Museum)



2. Irukanda



8. Intermediate egret



5. Okinawa Hirata Kuwagata (*Dorcus titanus okinawanus*)



6. Senbaru pond (an artificial pond)



7. Habu snake, shot image at the campus



3. Orii fruit bat

