

Eco tourism to Amanigunto National Park Kinsakubaru

Today our journey continued to a national park in Amani-Oshima. A virgin forest which holds a wild diversity and provide unique haven for countless plants and animals. As students focus on global environmental study, this is a great opportunity for us to embrace the nature and perceive its richness.

Lucky for us, before we enter the forest there was a heavy rain pass through the island. The forest had a refreshing “shower” which made the air smell like soil and tree leaves. This is the first present the Kinsakubura presented to us.

As we went deeper with the tourist guide, the more wonderful nature showed to us. “This plant is exclusive, only can be seen in this island.” The guidance pointed at a tree with long leaves and said this proudly. This plant is called “Hikagehego” in Japanese, it has long tree trunk and I have to look up to see all of its branches. On its branches, there are a lots of patterns that evenly surrounding the trunk. “ This is how Hikagehego is different from other Hego, you can only see this patterns on Hikagehego”, the guidance said “ this is the scar of the fallen tree branches”. Even the scar can look like artworks in natural! On those Hikagehego, there is another plant that also came into my eyes, it has long tree leaves and a black roof attached on the tree branches. Then, the guidance introduced this kind of plant to us. This plant has evolved an amazing adaptation strategy which can help them live in the shading area. A smart way to prevents them from competing for sunlight with other plants. According to the local guidelines, this kind of plant have a strong coexistence strategy and can tolerate competition with other plants. They attached on trees and live on their fallen leaves and improve their nutrient uptake. A perfect system created by nature. The photo below appears to be a filming location for a movie and is very famous. This is the second present we received from Kinsakubura.

As we walk along the jungle path, we saw a huge spider. According to the guidance, this is the largest spider in Japan, known as the "Jorogumo," which can only be found on Amami Oshima Island. This spider is a female and can grow up to about 50 millimeters in size with incredibly long legs. Interestingly, the males are only about one-tenth the size of the females in the same web, which is quite different from what one might imagine. They typically



feed on cicadas, insects, and occasionally even birds. This is the last present the park gave us.



As we walk out of the national forest park, I am left with a profound sense of reluctance and appreciation for this breathtaking beautiful natural landscape. This place not only stands for a sanctuary for Amami Oshima Island diverse, but also a important conservation task for its people. As they have done a excellent job on dealing with invasive species mongooses, I believe this island's will never loss its beauty.

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