Eradication project of invasive alien mongooses on Amami-oshima Island, Japan

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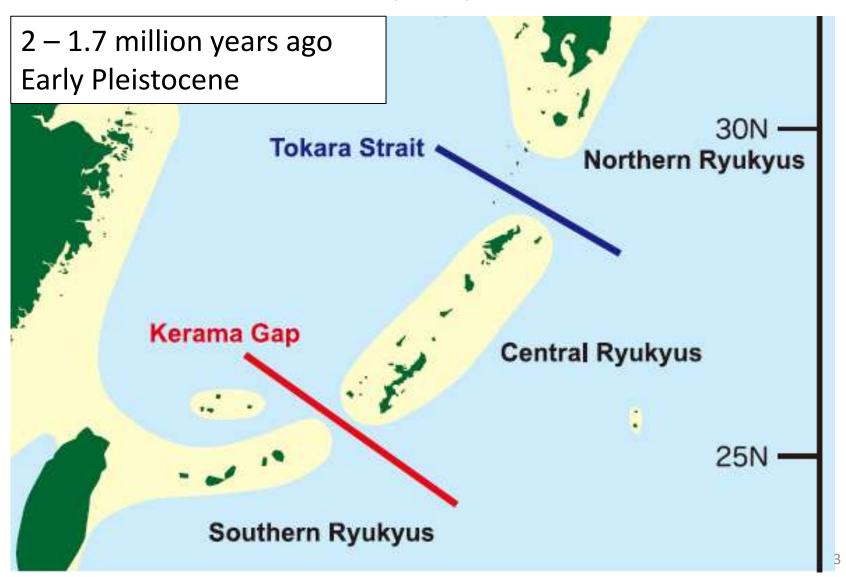
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Ryukyu Archipelago - one of biodiversity hot spots of the world Amami-oshima Island (712 km²) Population: 70,000 Okinawa Island (1,208 km²) Population: 1,200,000 Taiwan

Ryukyu Archipelago

- one of biodiversity hot spots of the world

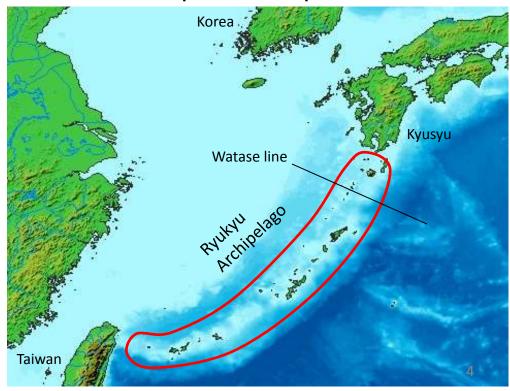


Ryukyu Archipelago

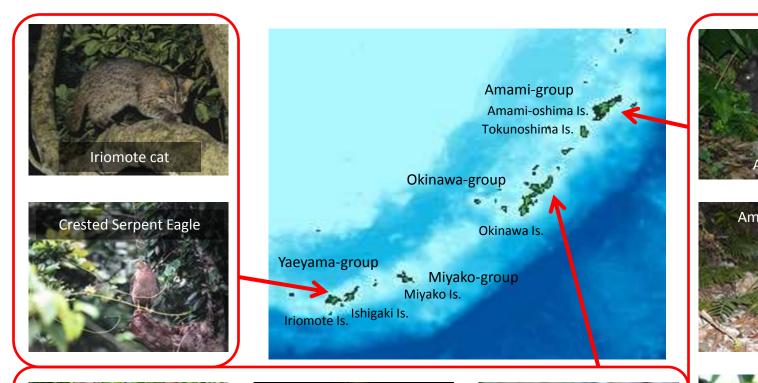
- one of biodiversity hot spots of the world

- Biogeographically, border of Palearctic and Oriental region.
- Isolated from the continent about 2 1.7 million years ago.
 - c.f. Mainland Japan: isolated about 10 000 20 000 years ago.
- Many endemic species inhabit with limited predator species





Native wildlife in the Ryukyus evolved in the absence of predatory mammals







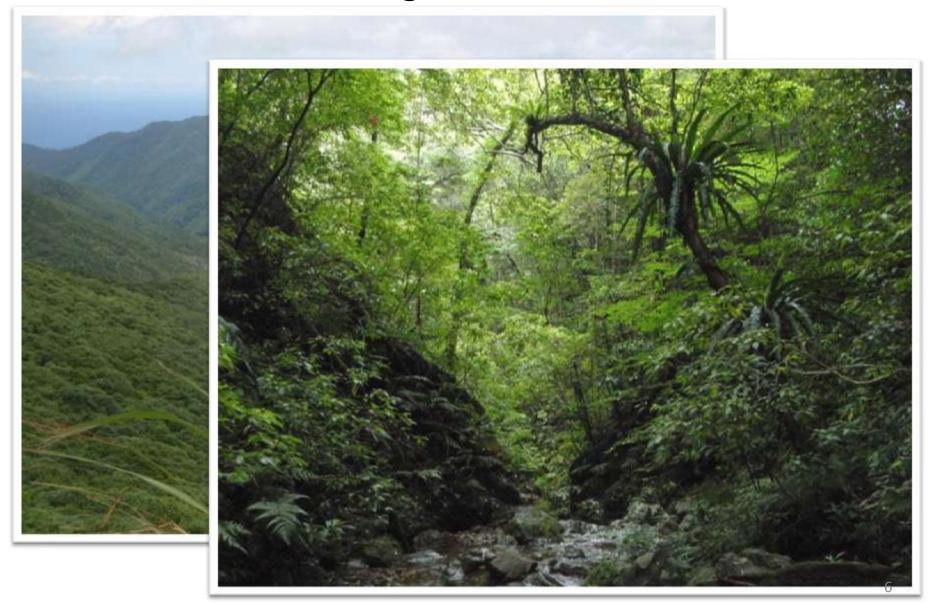








Amami-oshima, Japan's largest subtropical evergreen forests



Small Indian Mongoose

(Herpestes auropunctatus)

- A small, slim-bodied predator native to areas from Iran, through India to Myanmar, VietNam.
- It has been introduced to many islands to control rats, particularly in sugar cane fields of tropics.
- The mongoose has had a major impact on native species in the areas where it has been introduced.



Small Indian Mongoose (Herpestes javanicus (auropunctatus))



This voracious and opportunistic predator is native to areas from Iran, through India to Myanmar and the Malay Peninsula. It was introduced to Mauritius and Fiji and to the West Indies and Hawai'i in the late 1800s to control rats. Unfortunately, this early attempt at biological control has had disastrous impacts. Island populations of native fauna, which had evolved without the threat of a fastmoving, mammalian predator, were no match for the mongoose. It has caused the local extinction of several endemic birds, reptiles and amphibians and threatens others including the rare Japanese Amami rabbit (Pentalagus furnessi). The small Indian mongoose is also a vector of rabies.

More than 70 islands/areas introduced

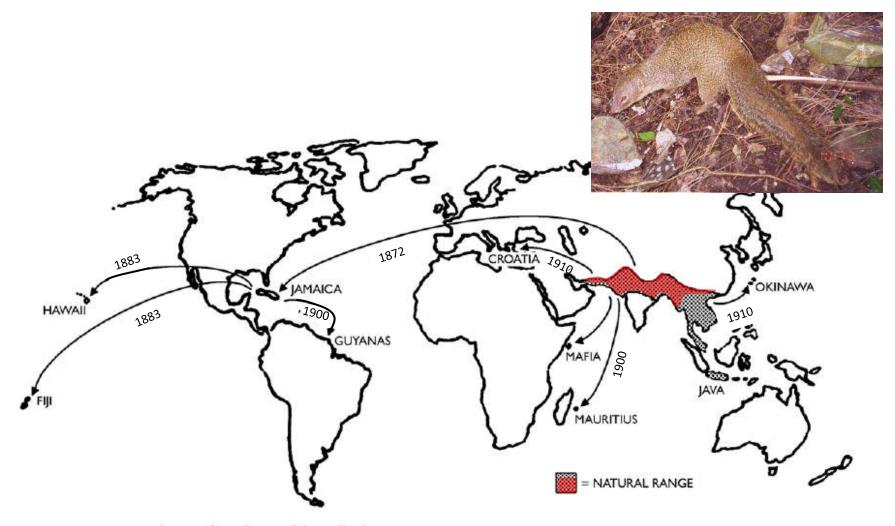
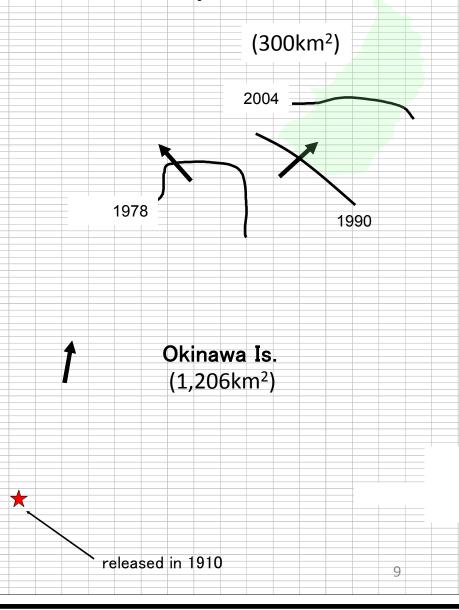


FIGURE 2. Native range and routes of introduction of the small Indian mongoose.

(Hays & Conant, 2007)

1910: First introduction to Japan

- Dr. Watase, the famous biologist in Japan was advised by foreign scientists to import morgooses to control poisonous snake Habu and harmful black rat
- Released around southern part of Okinawa and settled and spread gradually
- 1990s: Expand to Yamabaru region(northern Okinawa), the hotspot of wildlife
- Mongoose Control measure launched by Okinawa Prefectural Government & MOE launched from 2000

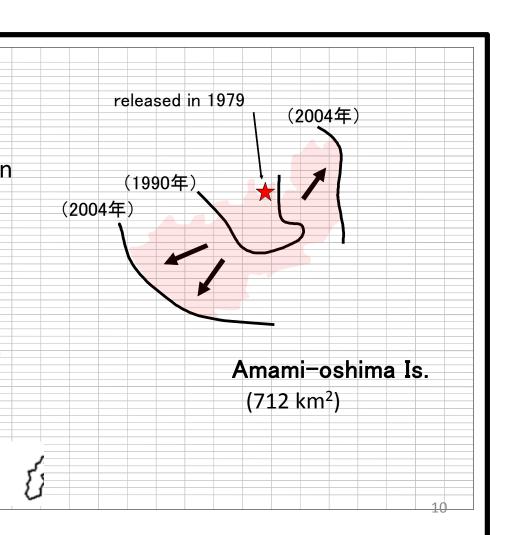


1979: Introduction into Amami from Okinawa Island

There are few records about

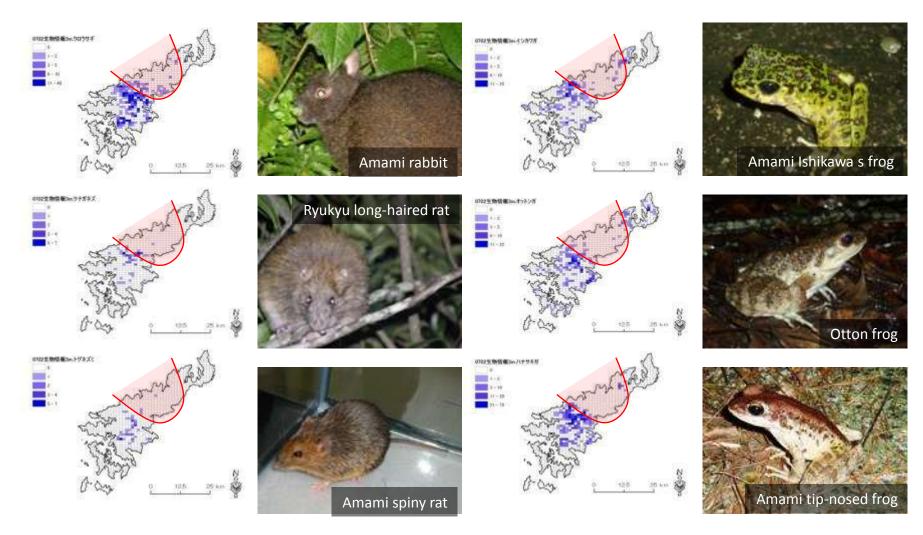
introduction into Amami

- Mongooses were brought in from Okinawa Island (Sekiguchi et.al.,2001)
- Mongooses successfully settled on Amami and expanded their distribution
- Damages on farming and poultry gradually appeared from 1983
- Some research by Amami
 Mammalogical Society from 1989
- Pest control by local government began from 1993



Strong negative impacts on native vertebrates

Partial extinction of mammals and amphibians



1993-: Pest control by local government

- Pest animal that causes harm to crops and chicks
- Local government launched control to reduce damages of crops
- Licensed trapper were paid JPY 2,200 for a mongoose
- 8,234 mongooses were captured in seven years (1993-1999)
- Most of them captured around the center of distribution, high density area



森田が撮影したマングース食害の証拠写真(名瀬市提供)

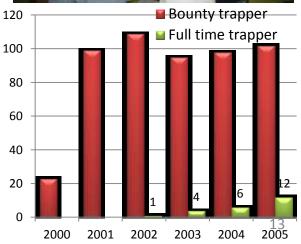


2000-2004: Control program by bounty trapper

- At the beginning, mongooses were live trapped by one hundred bounty trappers
- To keep incentive to trap, bounty increased from JPY 2,200 (2000) to JPY 4,000 (2001-02) and JPY 5,000 (2003-04)
- Trapping data of bounty trappers were collected with using standard grid square (about 1 km² mesh)
- A small number of trappers were employed to set traps at low density area and in bushes. 1 trapper in 2002, 4 in 2003, and 6 in 2004
- 14,558 mongooses were caught in this five year trapping 2000-2004







Preventing damage of indiscriminate capture

- Kill traps were first introduced in 2003
- Deploy endemic rats are absent and/or in low density.

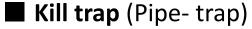




Live trap

... Everyday checking is necessary

...Used in habitat of endangered native species



...Efficient (Lightweight, Set for 2-4 weeks)

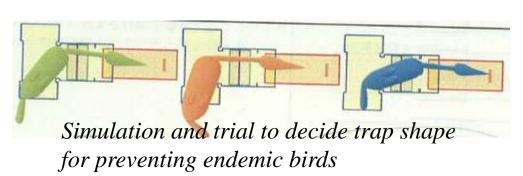
...Birds: discriminable

Rats: indiscriminable





Ryukyu longhaired rat





2005- Organizing Amami Mongoose Busters (AMB)

- Invasive Alien Species Act was enforced in 2005
- MOE launched a mongoose eradication project, hiring trapping experts, "Amami Mongoose Busters (AMB)".

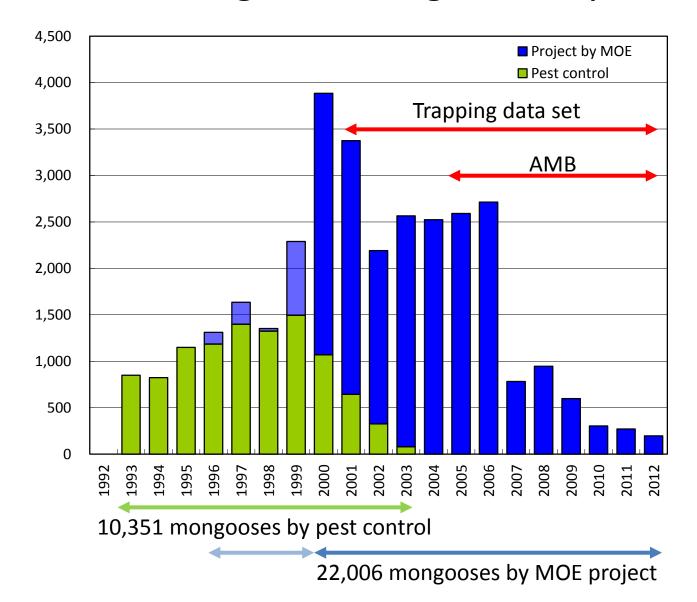




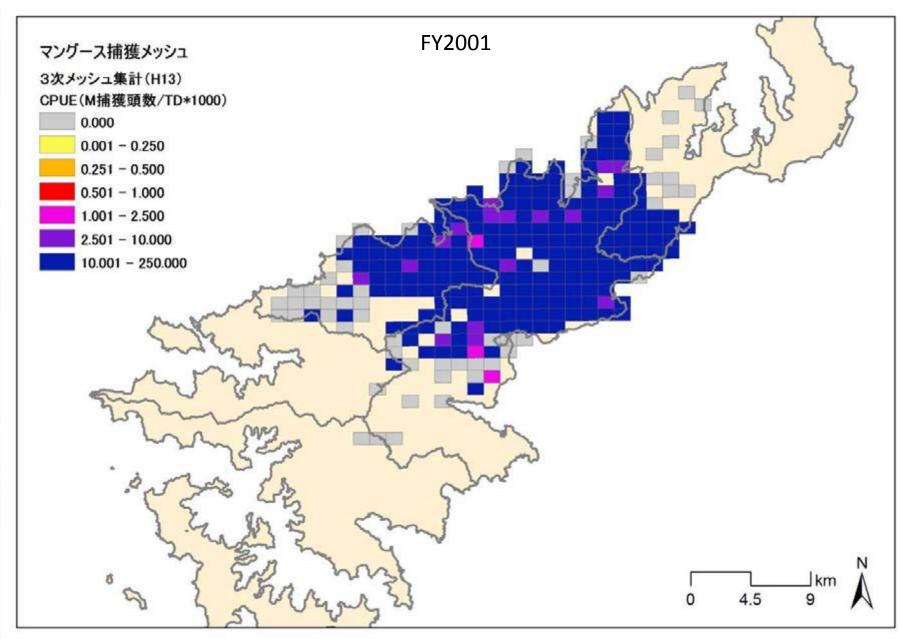
2013: AMB and trained sniffer dogs

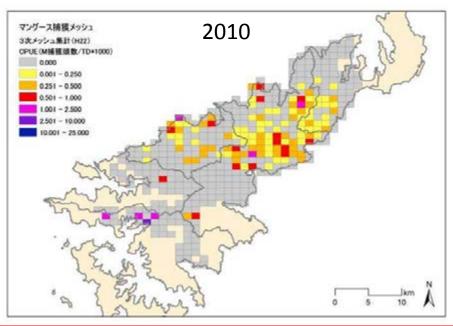


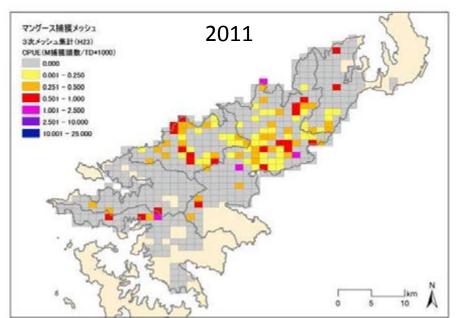
32,357 mongooses caught in 20 years

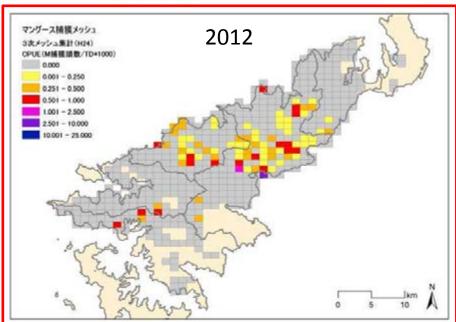


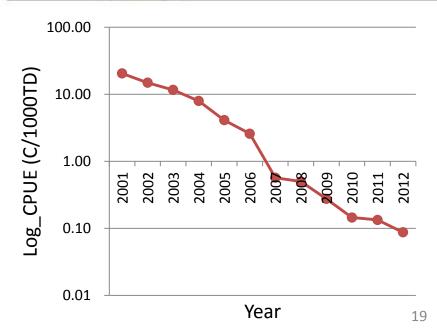
CPUE (Capture/1000trap-days) distribution



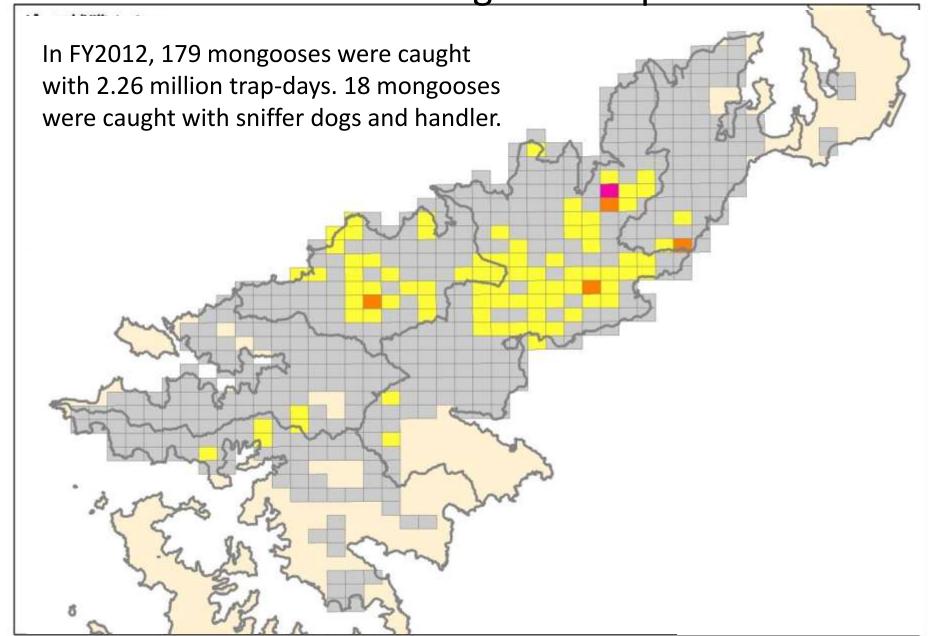




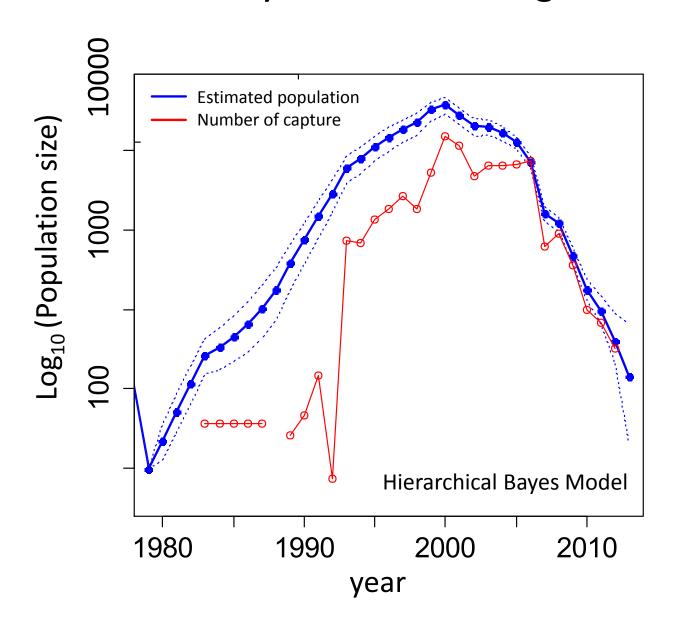


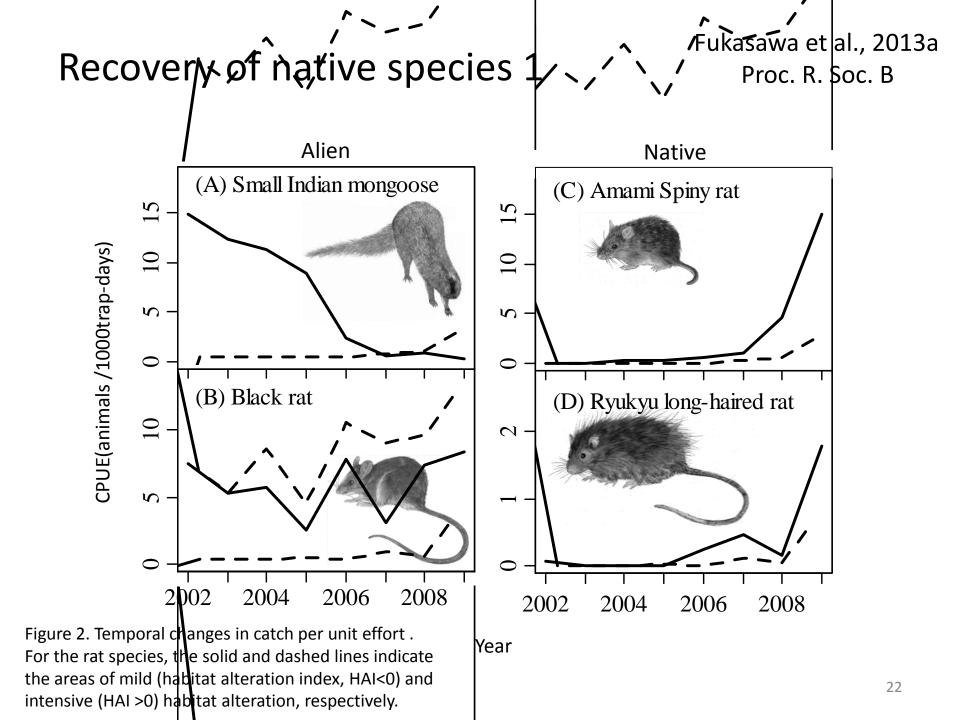


FY2012: 197 mongooses captured



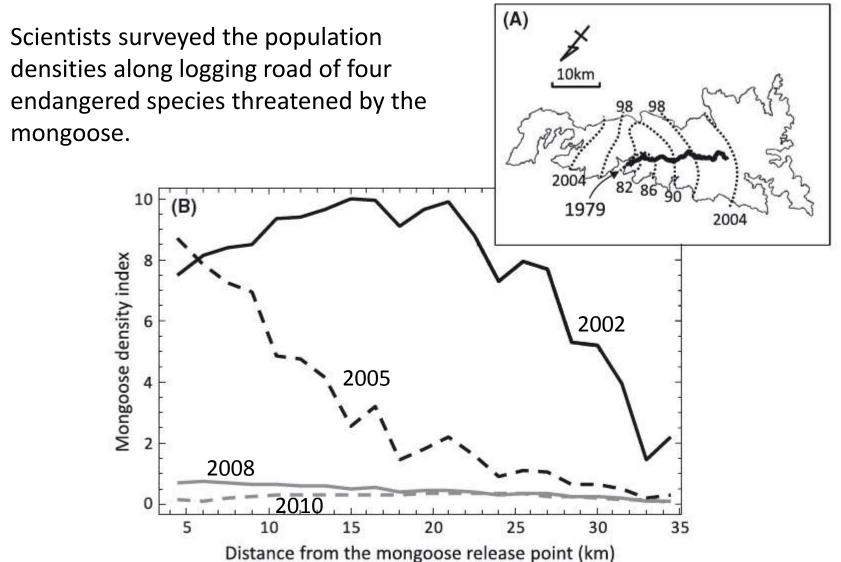
Abundance dynamics of mongooses





Watari et al., 2013 Ecology and Evolution

Recovery of native species 2



Recovery of native species 2

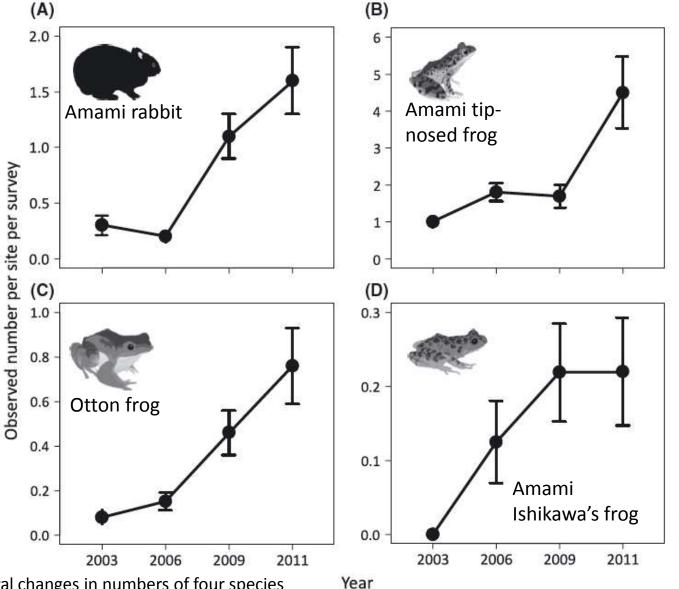
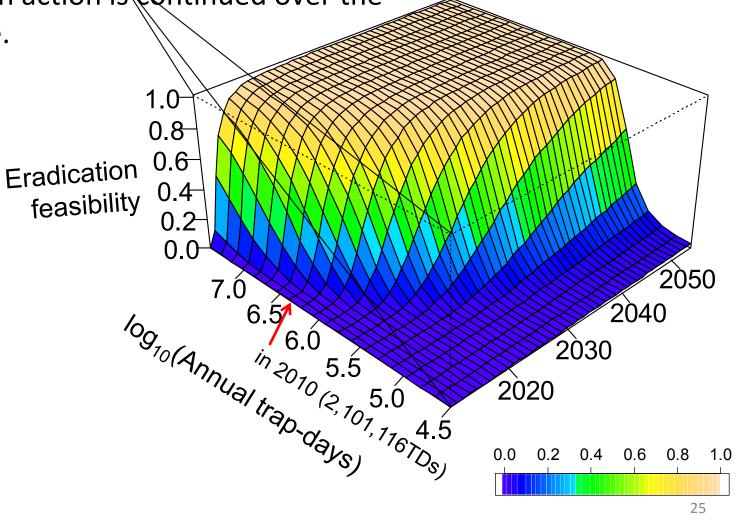


Figure 3. Temporal changes in numbers of four species observed per site per survey (mean SE).

Probability of eradication success

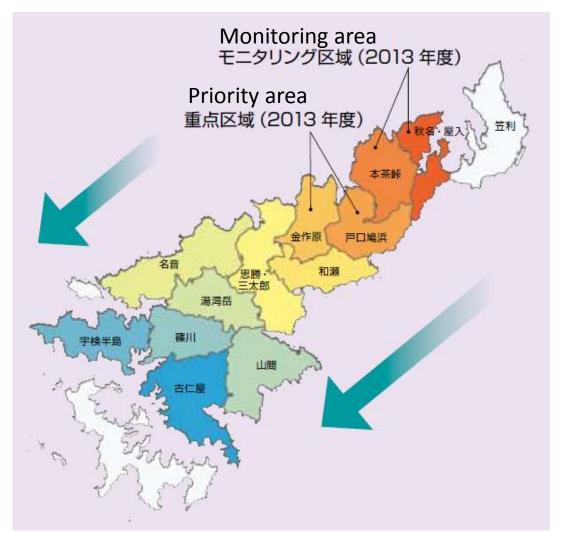
The eradication success might be feasible if eradication action is continued over the

next decade.

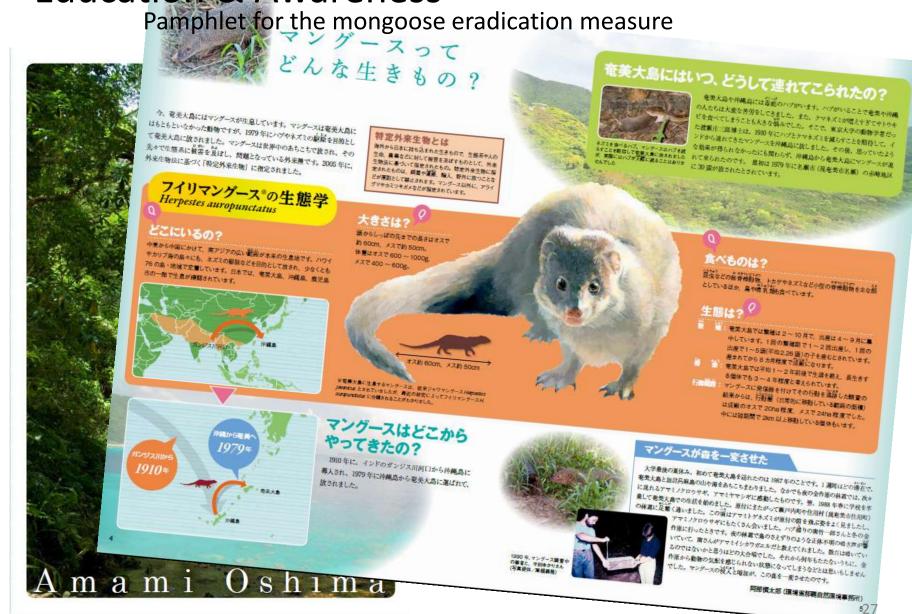


Eradication action plan by 2022

- New ten year mongoose eradication plan was settled on from FY2013 to 2022.
- The challenges are to eradicate small number of mongooses scattered in a large area, and to ensure that no mongoose survives in every area, with using sniffer dogs, camera traps and hair traps.



Education & Awareness



Thank you for your attention

