Title: Recording data with an iPad: Introduction of a mobile application for behavioral observation

Abstract:
Behavioral observation is an indispensable technique to understand behavior and ecology of wild animals and evaluate welfare of captive animals. Observation data have been traditionally handwritten on paper. The recorded data must be input on computers for analyses after the observation. Although this traditional method is easy to start because its introduction cost is low, it had some problems such as getting lost and broken easily, consuming much time to input, and being difficult to share the results of observation. In order to solve these problems, I developed a mobile application for behavioral observation of animals. It works on iOS / Android devices and assists data collection using instantaneous sampling. Observers choose data to be recorded from the lists which observers make by themselves. The input time and GPS location data are automatically recorded. The recorded data are saved in a format which can be edited on Microsoft Excel. This application is published for free (iOS: http://goo.gl/7DLLu, android: http://goo.gl/DzM0q, instructions: http://goo.gl/XEXy5). I expect that it is useful for behavioral, ecological, and welfare studies of wild animals.