

A comparison of capture methods for the invasive Formosan squirrel, *Callosciurus erythraeus*

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In Japan, invasive Formosan squirrels are captured to control forest damage and reduce ecosystem impacts. Initially small live cage traps were used but we experienced trap caused injuries and mortality of squirrels. Injuries and mortality were eliminated by switching to a larger sized trap (GIGANT). The capture efficiency for the large sized trap for 2 trapping occasions was 0.32 and 0.56 (N/TD: number of individuals trapped/trapping days). The capture efficiency for the smaller trap for 1 occasion was 0.50 (N/TD). Four different trapping methodologies were also compared: 1. prebaiting with multiple traps per trapping station, 2. prebaiting and a single trap per trapping station, 3. no prebaiting with multiple traps per trapping station, and 4. no prebaiting with a single trap per trapping station. A total of 149 individuals were captured with an overall capture efficiency of 0.60 (N/TD). When trapping for a short time period, prebaiting with multiple traps per station proved to be the superior method.

[MEMO]