

ハブ — その現状と課題 —
Present State and Problem of Habu Snake
(*Trimeresurus flavoviridis*)

服部正策

Shosaku HATTORI

東京大学医科学研究所奄美病害動物研究施設

Amami Laboratory of Injurious Animals, Institute of Medical Science, University of Tokyo

Summary

Snake bites by the venomous snake Habu, *Trimeresurus flavoviridis*, have been reported annually 70 to 100 cases in the population of 100, 000 in the Amami Islands. Moreover, there is no indication that the population of Habu itself has decreased, despite a campaign for capture of snakes by the Kagoshima Prefectural Government.

Further, a statistics analysis and the simulation were done with the snakes captured by the Government, and the analysis of population dynamics of Habu was attempted. As a result of investigating the individual measurement data of the captured Habu over 9 years, we were able to obtain the generous age composition of the Habu. From analyzing of the age pyramid of Habu and the result of the questionnaire surveys for the inhabitant in the Amami-oshima Island, the total population of the Habu which lives in this island was estimated at about 100, 000. By the analysis of the measured data of last nine years, the snake sizes were miniaturized, and the population of young snakes decreased. According to these investigations, the population of Habu is expected to decrease in the near future.

Recently, the Java mongoose, *Herpetologica javanicus* grew in the wild as invasive carnivore in the Amami-oshima Island. The mongoose was introduced into the Amami-oshima Island in 1970's as a natural enemy of the Habu snake. The population of the mongoose increases every year and the habitat range is extending to south area on the Island. It is necessary to remove the invader to defend nature. Then we are investigating the influence which the mongoose gives to wildlife in the Island. Since hairs such as Amami rabbit, Akahige were confirmed from the excrement of the mongoose, the necessity of the urgent ridding countermeasure of the mongoose was indicated. From 2000, the capture project of the mongoose was started by Environment Agency in order to protect endemic species of Amami-oshima.

はじめに

ハブ (*Trimeresurus flavoviridis*) はクサリヘビ科マムシ亜科に属する毒蛇である。ハブは南西諸島の奄美大島 (加計呂麻島, 請島, 与路島, 枝手久島を含む), 徳之島, 沖

