

Supplementary material S1

Decomposition of a deer carcass

At 13:59 on February 28 2022, a dying deer (adult male; estimated to be >6–7 years old based on the antler size and shape [Agetsuma-Yanagihara and Agetsuma personal communication]) was found on a forest road running through the study site (Supplementary material S2, SFigures 1–3 in Supplementary material S3). A group of Japanese macaques stayed near the deer from 14:24 to 14:34. Subadult females and juveniles approached the deer to about 30–50 cm to inspect it, but did not touch it. Adult males and females passed by at a distance that would have allowed them to notice the deer, but they did not even approach more closely (SFigures 4–7). At 14:38, road maintenance workers visited there and carried the deer into the forest. It could not be confirmed but it was highly likely that the deer died on the day because there were flies swarming on the lying deer and the deer was completely unresisting when carried by the human. The cause of death was unknown, but no external wound was found on the body and hunting is prohibited in the study area.

On March 2 (2nd day after death), the tail and rump of the deer carcass were lost and the abdominal cavity was partially visible. Other parts of the body were still fresh and remained intact in appearance (SFigures 8–10). On March 6 (6th day), the thoracic and abdominal cavities were largely exposed, and the contents of the digestive tract were out of the body. The right forelimb and hindlimb were detached from the trunk (SFigures 14–19). On March 8 (8th day), the carcass was moved 1.5 m downslope. Almost all fur, flesh, and internal organs had been removed except for the head, neck and feet (SFigures 20–24). The camera was placed near the carcass again on this day. I checked the camera data and found that the carcass was moved out of the detection area on March 7. On March 21 (21st day), the head was almost skeletonized, and only fur and flesh remained on the feet (SFigures 43–49). On May 27 (88th day), I confirmed that the whole body was completely skeletonized (SFigures 50–52).