

<b>Paper ID</b>	169
<b>Author(s)</b>	Uematsu Sako and Taro Takemoto
<b>Title</b>	Between the Yamainu and the Japanese wolf: Confusion surrounding the interpretation in modern Japan
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>The extinction of the Japanese wolf (Nihon Ookami) is considered one of the factors contributing to the increasing problem of wildlife damage in Japan. Although discussions about reintroducing wolves have gained attention, the exact timing and causes of their extinction remain unclear. This study focuses on the Yamainu, a term historically associated with canid animals whose interpretation has been the subject of considerable confusion.</p> <p>One of the most significant specimens labeled as a Yamainu is the type specimen of the Japanese wolf. Recent genomic analyses have revealed that this specimen had a Japanese wolf as its mother and a domestic dog as its father. This discovery highlights the complex relationships among the Yamainu, the Japanese wolf, and domestic dogs.</p> <p>Through a review of historical literature, four interpretations of the Yamainu were identified: (1) Yamainu as synonymous with the Japanese wolf, (2) Yamainu as a distinct second wolf species in Japan, (3) Yamainu as feral dogs inhabiting forests, and (4) Yamainu as hybrids between Japanese wolves and domestic dogs. Additionally, the distinction between wolves and dogs in Japan has been a subject of debate, with varying perspectives among researchers.</p> <p>These differing interpretations reflect the historical context of wolves in Japan. Reinterpreting the extinction of the Japanese wolf through the lens of the Yamainu's disappearance could provide new insights into the causes of their extinction. This study highlights the importance of addressing historical ambiguities to better understand Japan's wildlife history.</p>	
<b>Keywords</b>	Japanese wolf, Animals, Specimen, Discourse

<b>Paper ID</b>	172
<b>Author(s)</b>	Hung-yi Chien
<b>Title</b>	Names of Fauna and Flora in History: Methods for Identifying Species in Multilingual East Asian Sources
<b>Abstract</b>	
<p>In recent years, my research has explored biological knowledge in early modern East Asia. At the 2021 EAEH conference, I presented rice and governance in seventeenth-century Taiwan, followed in 2023 by a study of kinky-tailed cats in East Asian port cities. These studies examine the historical interactions between humans and specific species. This paper builds on these efforts by addressing a foundational question for historians working with linguistic sources: how can we identify historical species, breeds, or cultivars using modern taxonomy? Focusing on East Asia—particularly Taiwan, where historical records exist in multiple languages but lack systematic taxonomy—this paper explores the methodological challenges of interpreting biological records predating the introduction of binomial nomenclature. Japanese scholars, for instance, introduced modern species names while linking them to traditional Taiwanese Hokkien names, yet ambiguities remain when deciphering seventeenth- and eighteenth-century records. This presentation examines case studies of crops, such as rice, and animals, such as felines, alongside two fruits—pineapple and mango—with contested historical origins tied to maritime trade and Dutch colonization. By analyzing these examples, I demonstrate methods for identifying</p>	

traditional nomenclature with modern biological classification, advancing the study of historical fauna and flora in East Asia.

**Keywords**

Historical taxonomy, local knowledge, colonial knowledge, cultural encounters