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[Wildlife Conservation] Alishan Pleiones Move Out of the Protection Zone, Showing Special Plant Mass Migration Pattern

[Wildlife Conservation] Alishan Pleiones Move Out of the Protection Zone, Showing Special Plant Mass Migration Pattern (<u>Chinese Version</u>)

The Liberty Times E-paper (2010/02/25) After the 921 earthquake, the number of Taiwan Pleiones in Alishan (Ali Mountain) area rapidly decreased. Chiayi Forest District Office began to monitor the status of Ali Pleiones several years ago, finding their special mass migration phenomenon in order to respond to the environment change and to propagate.

The Liberty Times Journalist Yenchung HSIEH (謝銀仲)

Alishan is the largest natural habitat of Taiwan Pleiones. In 1992, a protection zone was set there in order to give a natural environment for Taiwan Pleiones' eco-system development. After 921 earthquake, the subline of Alishan railroad into the protection zone was destroyed; in order to understand the recovery status of pleiones, the Forest District Office invited Endemic Species Research Institute to investigate the bio-resources in the protection zone, finding that due to the traffic disruption, human activities stopped here and the wild plants and animals thrivingly developed, except for Taiwan Pleiones. The Forest District Office determined that the decrease of the Ali Pleiones may be caused by the living environment change induced by the earthquake. In order to keep a careful monitoring of Taiwan Pleiones in Alishan area, the frequecy of patrols and record-taking was lifted. It was surprisingly found that Taiwan Pleiones recovered slowly in the protection zone but on the contrary they thrived actively outside the protection zone. This indicates that for the sake of propagation plants can evolve a special pattern of mass migration.

Further Information: Endemic Species Research Institute The Liberty Times 2010/02/25 (Chinese)

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