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12:10

12:50

12:10-12:15

◆ Introduction

12:15-12:40

◆ Seminar
(Presentation)

12:40-12:50

◆ Q&A

Online
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Exploring a Multimodal Sensory World Through the Octopus



Key Words

Cephalopods**Multi-modal recognition****Vision****Somatic sensation****Embodiment**

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I received my Ph.D. in Science from the Graduate School of Engineering and Science, University of the Ryukyus, in 2022. After serving as a JSPS Research Fellow (DC1) and a KAKENHI researcher at the University of the Ryukyus, I am currently a postdoctoral researcher on a joint project between the Ikeda Laboratory and Canon Inc. My research focuses on the sensory worlds of squid and octopuses. My research on the roles of vision and touch in octopus foraging and novel-object learning (Kawashima & Ikeda, 2021, 2025, Zool. Sci.) received the Zoological Science Award in 2022 and 2026. My research demonstrating multisensory body representation in octopuses (Kawashima & Ikeda, 2025, Curr. Biol.) received worldwide media coverage for its implications for the evolution of body ownership.

We experience and image the world through our five senses: vision, touch, hearing, taste, and smell. For example, simply seeing a photo of a dish we ate before can bring back its taste, smell, and texture. This way of experiencing the world through multiple senses is called multimodal recognition. Octopuses also receive various sensory information through their eyes and many suckers. They use senses such as vision, touch, and taste. But what happens when an octopus sees something it has touched before? Does it recall how that object felt? And how does an octopus perceive itself as the subject of these experiences? Looking into the sensory world of the octopus may also help us take a fresh look at our own sensory world.