

ICR-iJURC Exchange

Research visit at Yamago's laboratory, University of Kyoto

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During my five-week research stay as visiting researcher at Kyoto University, I had the opportunity to get to know Prof. Shigeru Yamago's group. I was warmly welcomed by the team and enjoyed the scientific and personal exchanges.

The ICR-iJURC program allowed us to strengthen our ongoing collaboration, combining the expertise of both groups to design chiral cyclic hydrocarbons. The group's proficiency in the synthesis of these materials provided a solid foundation for the project. Our primary objective was to complete the synthesis and purification of compounds critical to our research. We focused on optimizing the purification process for a set of pre-synthesized compounds to ensure sufficient quantities of pure material for the final macrocycle formation. Very helpful was the excellent equipment available, including gel permeation chromatography (GPC) on preparative scale and preparative TLC, supported by NMR spectroscopy for quick fraction analysis. These methods proved especially helpful in streamlining small-scale optimizations and ensuring we could efficiently prepare the materials for the next stages of our research.

Outside the laboratory, I got the chance to explore Kyoto's cultural heritage, including its gardens, temples, and handcraft markets, which offered a valuable counterbalance. The accessibility to the city and landmarks in the country by train were very convenient from Uji campus.

Thanks to the ICR-iJURC exchange program that enabled this journey. I would also like to express my gratitude to Professor Yamago and Assistant Professor Eiichi Kayahara for their guidance and welcome.

