

Students of Takamatsu Daiichi Senior High School got on-site training about sea, at Aji Marine Station.

The on-site learning which was called "Super Science High School (SSH) " was held on September 17, 2019 at Aji Marine Station of the Seto Inland Sea Regional Research Center, with participated 38 student and 5 teachers.

Every year, the Seto Inland Sea Regional Research Center has been in charge of SSH learning for special science course of the 1st grade students of Takamatsu Daiichi Senior High School. We usually offer sea observation experience and plankton observation by microscope.

Particularly this year, in addition to these, we were able to observe Amphioxus, or Lancelet from relatively sandy bottom mud. Amphioxus is rare animals that we can seldom see. Amphioxus is invertebrate without spine, but has a notochord that emerges only in the early stages of vertebrate ontogeny and is thought to resemble the ancestors of vertebrates. In order to investigate the origin and evolution of vertebrates, Amphioxus is considered to be the animal in important position in research.

In the past, Amphioxus were inhabited in various areas of Japan, but in recent years the number and habitat have been drastically decreasing with the deterioration of the environment. We hope the Seto Inland Sea will regain clean environment where we can easily see a lot of Amphioxus.



Research vessels called "Calanus III"



Moving to observation point



Collection of phytoplankton



Observation of zooplankton



Observation of organisms in seabed mud



Amphioxus



Microscope observation at Marine Station