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News

Behavioral Ecology Study of Red Uakari, *Cacajao calvus ucayalii*, in Northeastern Peru

A long-term behavioral ecology study of red uakari (*Cacajao calvus ucayalii*) was begun in April 1993 in northeastern Peru, approximately 110 km south of Iquitos, along the Quebrada Blanco and adjacent to the Reserva Comunal Tamshiyacu-Tahuayo (see Aquino, 1995). The principal investigator of this project, Suzi Leonard, works under the auspices of the Detroit Zoological Institute, and under the direction of Cynthia Bennett, Research Zoologist at the Dallas Zoo. The project was initiated in cooperation with I.V.I.T.A./The Peruvian Primate Project, and continues in conjunction with the biological science departments of the Universidad Nacional de La Amazonia Peruana in Iquitos.

This subspecies of uakari has been little studied in the wild. The critical information on the species comes from the work of Ayres (1986) with the white uakari (*C.c.calvus*) in Brazil. Ayres' long-term uakari work gives this species as a flooded-forest specialist. Our findings indicate that the red subspecies in our study area spend at least part of their time in terra firme forests. During the 1500+ hours searching for and following red uakari, we have totaled 270+ contact hours with the animals over 14 months (April 1993 - December 1995). All of these contact hours were in terra firme forests (following Encarnación, 1985). The approximately 90 km study area abuts flooded forest on the west, and possibly on the south, and the uakari may be spending time out of the study area in these locations. Based on search time versus contact time, we know these groups use immense ranges. Day range lengths averaged 7.3 km.

During four months in 1994, we totaled 151.5 hours of behavioral scans on red uakari groups, taken at 15-minute intervals (Altmann, 1974). Interestingly, almost 30% of those scans caught the uakari in association with other species of primates; and 76% of their associative time was with woolly monkeys (*Lagothrix lagotricha*). During the next two years, we will be concentrating on the food selection of both the uakari and the woollies, in and out of polyspecific groups, in an attempt to determine whether there is a resource advantage to association for one or both species. We also predict that, in an area where large eagles, including the harpy eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) still prey on primates (pers. obs.), avian predator protection (Struhsaker, 1981) may prove influential in uakari-woolly monkey decisions to associate.

In July 1995, with the aid of Kenneth Glander (Duke University Primate Center), Fred Koontz (Wildlife Conservation Society), and Wendy Westrom (DVM), we will be radio-collaring several uakari. Hopefully, telemetry will improve our contact time, help us to define home range boundaries, and identify individuals for edification of social systems.

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Black Lion Tamarins in the Central Park Wildlife Center, New York

Four black lion tamarins, *Leontopithecus chrysopygus*, are settling into their new home in the Central Park Wildlife Center, New York, USA. They are the first to be imported into North America. Efforts have been made to provide a varied and stimulating environment for both pairs, one of which is on exhibit, while the second pair remains behind the scenes. The black