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The Diet of Muriqui Females, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, in Different Reproductive Conditions

In September, 1996, Cláudio Pereira Nogueira defended his Master's thesis in Biological Sciences, comparing the diets and activity budgets of female muriquis, *Brachyteles arachnoides*, in different reproductive conditions. The degree was awarded by the Faculty of Applied Sciences of the University of Guarulhos, São Paulo, Brazil. The research was supervised by Dr. Mário Sérgio Galvão Bueno in collaboration with Dr. Karen B. Strier of the Department of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, and was supported by grants from the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation, and the Chicago Zoological Society - NSF BNS 8958298 (through Karen B. Strier). The following is a summary of the thesis.

From August 1992 to July 1993, a field study of a group of 17 female muriquis (*Brachyteles arachnoides*) was carried out in the forest of the Biological Station of Caratinga (Fazenda Montes Claros), Minas Gerais, Brazil (see Strier, 1992). Behavioral data was obtained from 1,764 focal samples (of 10 minutes each) of four classes of females: nonreproductive, pregnant, lactating with infant up to 12 months old, and lactating with offspring more than 12 months old. The data indicated that females spend an average of 51.6% of their time resting, 36.0% feeding, 11.2% traveling, 0.5% in social behavior and 0.3% drinking water. Females devoted an average of 60.2% of their feeding time to leaves, 26.9% to fruits, 9.3% to flowers and 3.6% to bamboo, bark and ferns. The increase in time spent feeding compared to other studies may be due to the increase in size of the Matão group and the change in group composition, with a larger number of females with greater energetic requirements. Comparing the females in different reproductive conditions revealed significant differences in their activity budgets. Nonreproductive females devoted an average of 57.6% of their time to resting, 31.4% to feeding, 10.3% to traveling, 0.6% to social behavior, 0.1% to drinking and 64.4% of their feeding time to leaves, 27.1% to fruits, 6.7% to flowers, 1.2% to bamboo, 0.5% to bark and 0.1% to ferns. The pregnant females devoted an average of 54.4% of their time to resting, 31.4% to feeding, 13.2% to traveling, 0.3% to social behavior, 0.1% to drinking and 56.1% of their feeding time to leaves, 27.2% to fruits, 12.5% to flowers, 3.8% to bamboo and 0.4% to ferns. The lactating females with infants up to 12 months old devoted an average of 50.3% of their time to resting, 38.8% to feeding, 9.7% to traveling, 0.5% to social behavior, 0.7% to drinking, and 58.2% of their feeding time to leaves, 30.5% to fruits, 8.2% to flowers, 1.6% to bamboo, 1.0% to barks and 0.5% to ferns. The lactating females with offspring over 12 months of age devoted an average of 47.2% of their time to resting, 39.5% to feeding, 12.5% to traveling, 0.5% to social behavior, 0.3% to drinking water and 60.2% of their feeding time to leaves, 23.9% to fruits, 10.9% to flowers, 1.7% to bamboo, 2.6% to bark and 0.7% to ferns. The results indicated that the females with lower energetic requirements (nonreproductive females) spent less time feeding and adopted an energy-saving strategy, spending less time in traveling and more time in resting, while including a larger proportion of leaves in their diet. The pregnant females spent less time in feeding but consumed more high energy food and avoided feeding competition by varying their diet. The females with the highest energetic requirements (lactating) spent more time in feeding and consumed more high-energy food (fruits and flowers).

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Cytogenetic and Phylogenetic Studies of *Alouatta* from Brasil and Argentina

Edivaldo Herculano Corrêa de Oliveira completed his Master's thesis on the cytogenetics of howling monkeys, *Alouatta*, at the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), Curitiba in May 1996. He was supervised by Dr Ives José Sbalqueiro (UFPR), in collaboration with Prof. Margarida M. C. de Lima (Federal University of Pará, Belém). The research was financed by the Brazil National Science Council (CNPq), the Brazilian Higher Education Authority (CAPES), and the Federal