

but the sequences produced by each one are totally different, not corresponding to a normal duet. The sequence produced by the older seems to alternate between pants and bellows, such as was registered for *C. moloch* by Robinson (1979).

In the recorded call, the rhythm of syllables emitted by the older titi varied between phases. During the initial phase, intersyllable intervals were, on average, 345.6 ± 57.8 msec ($N = 15$ intervals). Close to or during the "duet" sequence, the rhythm was accelerated (141.2 ± 52.1 msec; $N = 5$). Absence of similar data in the literature precludes comparisons with a conventional duet. On the other hand, discernible structural differences between the syllables produced by the older and the younger individuals, besides the major degree of definition presented by the older one, is indicative that participation in "duets" with one or both parents may be a way of learning vocal signs. Time intervals between syllables may function as a clue to coordinate vocalization.

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Milene M. Martins, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biologia, and **Adelaide H. P. Silva**, Departamento de Fonética, Instituto de Estudos Linguísticos, Universidade Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp), 13083-970 Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil.

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UNUSUAL SEXUAL POSTURE IN A HOWLER MONKEY COUPLE, *ALOUATTA FUSCA CLAMITANS*

Sandra Steinmetz
Mônica de Souza

The sexual behavior of primates varies considerably from species to species. In some, copulation is performed rapidly, preceded by little or no courtship, and completed in just a few seconds, in others copulation is more elaborate, lasting for several hours, with courtship continuing over several days. Copulation usually takes place in a dorsal-ventral position, the male mounting the female from the rear (Chalmers, 1979). Mendes (1985) observed eight copulations of *Alouatta fusca clamitans*, all of them in a dorsal-ventral position. Other species of *Alouatta* have also been observed with the same postural copulatory pattern, for example, *A. palliata* - Bernstein (1964), Carpenter (1965); *A. belzebul* - Bonvicino (1989); *A. caraya* - Calegario-Marques (1992); and *A. seniculus* - Neville (1972). Here, we describe an unusual mount posture of the howler monkey *A. fusca clamitans*.

The observations were made while conducting a field study on the feeding ecology of neotropical squirrels (*Sciurus ingrami*) at the Cantareira State Park (23°22'S and 46°26'W), north of São Paulo, Brazil. On February 26th, 1998, at 09:32 h, we observed a couple of howler monkeys approximately 15 m above us. The female was dark brown and adult in size. The male was red-brown and bigger than the female. When we arrived, both individuals were seated side-by-side. After a few minutes, the female leaned back on the branch, with slightly flexed legs wide opened sideways. The male approached and, facing the female, took an almost seated position between her legs. The male then stood quadrupedally over her with his legs slightly flexed, and began a pelvic thrusting lasting 10 seconds. Meanwhile, the female remained still with her head sideways observing us. Intromission and ejaculation could not be reliably seen; difficult to ascertain in howler monkeys in general (Carpenter, 1965). The ejaculation in some copulations is determined by an interval between the thrusting pelvic movements of the male (Hanby and Brown, 1974).

After the ventro-ventral position mount and pelvic thrusting, the couple remained together embracing each other

with their muzzles touching. Then a group of howler monkeys arrived (one adult male, two females and three infants) and stopped approximately 50 m away and at the same height in the forest as the couple. The adult male in the group began to roar and was joined by one of the females. While both howler monkeys roared, the couple stayed quietly for some moments and then at 09:45 h they disappeared through the trees. The group stopped roaring at 09:47 h.

This kind of ventro-ventral position is very rare in primates, only described in humans and bonobos (*Pan paniscus*). Ventro-ventral copulations constitute between 26% and 38% of the heterosexual copulations observed in field studies of bonobos in Wamba and the Lomako Forest, Zaire (de Waal, 1989). In heterosexual pairs it usually occurs with the male in the active role, on top of the female, but exceptions do occur (de Waal, 1989). Some studies have noted that young monkeys and apes assume a ventro-ventral posture while thrusting. For example, Bingham (1928) and Goodall (1968) describe this for chimpanzees, *Pan troglodytes*, and Hanby and Brown (1974) observed it in Japanese macaques, *Macaca fuscata*. This pattern often disappears with age or experience, but is reminiscent of the relation between close maternal contact, ventro-ventral embraces, and genital stimulation (Hanby, 1976).

Social experience is very important in the development of primates, and behaviors that we think of as primarily sexual (e.g., mounting) are engaged by primates in a wide variety of other social situations (Hanby and Brown, 1974). In spite of the importance of such socio-sexual behaviors, their development needs to be studied further, especially in Neotropical primates.

Sandra Steinmetz and **Mônica de Souza**, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade de São Paulo, Rua do Matão - Travessa 14, 321, Cidade Universitária, 05508-900 São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil. E-mail: Sandra Steinmetz <steinmet@usp.br>, Mônica de Souza <ticoteco@usp.br>.

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News

SOBRE A OCORRÊNCIA DO MURIQUI, *BRACHYTELES ARACHNOIDES*, EM MAMBUCABA, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRASIL

Aguirre (1971), relacionou seis exemplares de *Brachyteles arachnoides*, procedentes de Mambucaba, município de Angra dos Reis, estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil (Fig. 1), coletados entre 11 e 14 de setembro de 1942, associando-os à Fundação Rockefeller. Em nota, comentou que era desconhecido o paradeiro desses espécimes.

Anos mais tarde, conversando com o Sr. Aguirre, soubemos que foi através de fichas individuais que ele obteve informações sobre os animais. O Sr. Aguirre conseguiu, no final da década de 1960, encontrar num depósito do antigo prédio ocupado pela Fundação Rockefeller, no campus do então Instituto Osvaldo Cruz, uma considerável



Figura 1. Mapa do estado Rio de Janeiro, com a localização de Mambucaba, município de Angra dos Reis (23°01'S, 44°31'W).