

Establishment of a Free-ranging Colony of Stumptail Macaques (*Macaca arctoides*): Social Relations I

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ABSTRACT. Data on the social behaviour of a free-ranging troop of Stumptail macaques are reported for a period starting of August 15th to November 7th of 1974.

Positive interactions take a greater part in the daily life of the troop than negative interactions. Individuals order themselves in an essentially linear dominance hierarchy and offspring rank immediately below their mother. Agonism and displacement are good predictors of dominance rank. Dominant individuals are a strong source of attraction for subordinates and the alpha male is a powerful social magnet for immatures.

Grooming was found to be correlated with dominance rank and individuals holding adjacent ranks tend to interact positively with one another. To gain access to dominant females, subordinates direct a great deal of positive behaviour to the female's youngest offspring.

As social distance decreases the selection of a social partner becomes more strict and tends toward adjacency. However, factors such as motherhood, genealogical ties, and special relationships with non adjacent individuals, can override the tendency.

The direction and quantity of male-care displayed by the adult male and by juvenile males toward younger individuals was found to be influenced by the troop's dominance patterns. Sex differences were found to exist in male-care received and a negative association was found with the age of the receiver.

Adult females are the main regulators of social relations and their rank and friendships provide their offspring with the social format, before puberty, in which they develop socially. The alpha male is the group protector, the performer of policing, an important element in the immatures' social development, and a powerful source of attraction for all troop members.

INTRODUCTION

While some information is available on the social dynamics of the Stumptail macaque, most of what we know about this monkey species comes from studies of adult groups living under conditions of captivity.

OAKES (1967) made a series of observations of a captive Stumptail female group. She reported that the female hierarchy was very stable over time and observed that when a mature male was introduced into the group he showed a preference to associate with the highest ranking female regardless of her breeding status. She further concluded that aggression seems to be an important behavioral mechanism in the establishment of dominance hierarchies and in the regulation of social relations in *Macaca arctoides*.

BERTRAND (1969) conducted an extensive and complete study of captive Stumptails in India and she also noticed that dominance subordination interactions were important in the regulation of social relations and that there was a strong correlation