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Food intake, nutrient intake, and food selection in captive and semi-free Douc langurs

This study deals with food intake, nutrient intake, and food selection in captive and semi-free Douc langurs. It is one of the very few quantitative studies on folivory in primates. It intends to examine aspects of the feeding ecology of Douc langurs by analysing food and nutrient intake from leaves quantitatively.

Information is given on food plant species and on their protein, mineral, and fibre content. Preferences for food plant species and parts are assessed. It is examined whether preferences for food plant species correlate with their nutrient and fibre content. The role of secondary plant compounds in food selection is discussed. The digestibility of a semi-natural diet - consisting almost exclusively of fresh leaves from Vietnamese plants - is examined. Food and nutrient intake from the entire diet consumed by the captive study animals is assessed and compared to the recommendations given by the National Research Council for the feeding of Old World monkeys. The activity budget of the study animals is examined with reference to food intake behaviour. The long-term development of the captive Douc langur population is analysed with regard to digestive disorders as causes of death.