

## 004 Pre-congress Symposium and Workshop in Inuyama

### HYBRIDIZATION IN PRIMATES

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Until recently, hybrid speciation was thought to be only a marginal phenomenon in animal evolution. However, with the application of molecular methods over the last 15 years, it became clear that introgression and hybrid speciation is more common in animals than was previously thought. A number of recent reviews on interspecific hybridization illustrated an unexpectedly wide taxonomic range and, depending on the group of organisms, relatively high frequencies of interbreeding species. For primates, information about hybridization is still scarce compared to fishes, birds or other mammals. However, recent reviews have highlighted the taxonomic breadth of natural hybridization in the primate order. Such hybridization has occurred mainly between species (e.g., *Lepilemur* sp., *Microcebus* sp., *Alouatta* sp., *Papio* sp., *Macaca* sp., *Gorilla* sp.), but has also been detected between genera (e.g., *Trachypithecus* x *Semnopithecus*, *Rungwecebus* x *Papio*). Even for the human lineage, hybridization has been suggested as an important evolutionary mechanism. In my presentation, I will provide an overview about what we know about hybridization in primates, especially Asian primates, and which molecular methods can be applied to detect hybridization. Finally, I will discuss the impact of hybridization on taxonomy, conservation and biomedical research.