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FEEDING ECOLOGY OF THE RED SHANKED DOUC LANGUR (*PYGATHRIX NEMAEUS*) AT SON TRA NATURE RESERVE, VIETNAM

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The first long term study of red shanked Douc Langur *(Pygathrix nemaeus*) feeding behavior and ecology was conducted at Son Tra Nature Reserve, Danang City, Vietnam.
Two years of data on feeding behavior were collected using scan sampling during group follows. Sixteen vegetation plots (50x40m) containing 160 trees each from about 60 species were established and monitored monthly for changes in fruit, flower and young leaf production. Basal area and canopy cover were calculated and used for estimating food abundance. Red shanked Douc Langurs were found to be folivores/frugivores, specializing in young leaf consumption. At least 62 plant species were used as food sources with *Parashorea stellata*, *Shorea guiso* and *Ficus annulata* consumed most frequently. We found red shank Douc Langurs to be selective feeders since use of tree species was not based on relative density alone. During times of low food abundance doucs varied their feeding strategy and increased their dietary diversity. Our findings demonstrate that red shank Douc Langurs are seasonally and dietarily flexible which may help explain why the species can survive in such a wide variety of forested habitats throughout its range.

Keywords: Red shanked Douc Langur; Pygathrix nemaeus, feeding behavior, ecology