

ACTIVITY BUDGET OF *RHINOPITHECUS BIETI* IN TIBET: EFFECTS OF DAY LENGTH, TEMPERATURE AND FOOD AVAILABILITY

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The potential influence of day length, temperature, and food availability on the activity budget of *Rhinopithecus bieti* was studied at Xiaochangdu, Tibet from June 2003 to March 2005. Pearson correlations were utilized to assess potential relationships between activity budget and day length, food availability and temperature, and stepwise multiple regressions to identify the priority of resting and other activities. Time spent resting and "other activities" were positively related to day length, temperature and food availability. No significant correlations were found between feeding/moving time and any of these variables. This suggests that foraging time takes priority over rest and other activities. Day length and foraging time (as independent variables) were related to the time spent in the other two activities (as dependent variables). Both resting time and "other activities" time were highly significant positive functions of day length, with the latter a highly significant negative function of feeding time and moving time. Resting time may therefore be interpreted as taking priority over time spent in "other activities". These results provide further evidence of the importance relationship between environmental variables and seasonal activity budgets.

Keywords: Activity budget, Day length, Temperature, Food availability