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## LOCOMOTOR AND POSITIONAL BEHAVIOR OF JUVENILE LOWLAND WOOLLY MONKEYS (*Lagothrix poeppigii*) IN YASUNÍ NATIONAL PARK, ECUADOR

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Although the locomotor and positional behaviors of adult lowland woolly monkeys are well documented, little attention has been paid to the use of locomotor behaviors by immature members of this species. We investigated locomotor profiles of infant, juvenile, and subadult *Lagothrix poeppigii* in Yasuní National Park, Ecuador to explore how individuals of these age categories navigate their environment and differ in their locomotor behaviors. Of particular interest for woolly monkeys are developmental changes in use of the prehensile tail, a conspicuous apomorphic feature of atelines. Based on ontogenetic studies of motor behavior in primates, we expected to see younger individuals engage in a wider variety of postures and locomotor styles compared to adults. To document the postural and locomotor repertoire of juveniles and subadults, we collected focal video samples during June and July 2008 using a Sony Handycam HD digital camcorder. Locomotor behavior (general activity, locomotor/positional mode, substrate, tail usage) was scored, post-hoc, from the videos using point samples in 5-s intervals, with over 4,600 point samples scored. As expected, juveniles (0.5–4 years) had the most diverse locomotor profiles, while subadults (4–6 years) had a locomotor profile nearly indistinguishable from that of adults. Young juveniles (0.5–2.5 years) are the most cautious during locomotion. Use of the prehensile tail for support begins early, as clinging infants wrap their tails around their mother's tail/limbs, and increases throughout ontogeny as individuals begin to travel independently. Additional research is needed to elucidate the locomotor behavioral strategies of juvenile versus adult *Lagothrix* individuals.

Keywords: Ontogeny; Atelinae; Suspensory behavior; Locomotion