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COMPARATIVE STUDY OF MOLAR MICROWEAR IN Saguinus spp.

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The hypocone is usually absent or poorly developed in the Callitrichinae, although some *Saguinus* spp. have an incipient hypocone. In this study, true hypocone (*S. labiatus*), cingulum-derived hypocone (*S. fuscicollis*) and developed lingual cingulum (*S. nigricollis*, *S. oedipus*) were recognized at different developmental degrees in *Saguinus* spp. Microwear formed on wear facet 8 at each stage was observed by using scanning electron microscopy. Hypocones of *Saimiri* spp., at a developmental stage similar to the Callitrichinae, had clear wear facet 8 and pit-dominated microwear pattern on it. In wear facet 8 for *Saguinus* spp., on the other hand, the frequency of striations was relatively high and microwear patterns more complicated than those for *Saimiri* spp. There is a possibility that the microwear pattern represents the difference between species and is correlated with the developmental degree of the hypocone.

Keywords: Saguinus, hypocone, microwear, scanning electron microscopy