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THE LEMUR SYNDROME: WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE NEED TO GO?

P.M. Kappeler

German Primate Center, Behavioral Ecology & Sociobiology Unit, Kellnerweg 4, 27077 Göttingen, Germany

Organizer's Email: pkappel@gwdg.de

The lemurs of Madagascar exhibit a combination of behavioral and life history traits that deviate from patterns in better-known anthropoids as well as from some theoretical predictions. Most notably, lemurs lack sexual dimorphism, they exhibit female dominance and their groups have even sex ratios. Existing explanations of this lemur syndrome have focused on ecological and climatic peculiarities of Madagascar, but a satisfactory comprehensive explanation has remained elusive. The aim of this round-table discussion is to provide a forum for all those interested in lemur biology to contribute and discuss new data pertaining to an aspect of the lemur syndrome and to brainstorm together about crucial predictions of comprehensive explanations and the data required to test them. This discussion will be informal, so no abstract is required from participants. Those interested in making short presentations should contact the organizer beforehand, however.

Keywords: lemurs, Madagascar, sociality, sexual selection