257-S

HABITAT FRAGMENTATION IN TIME AND SPACE: LESSONS TO LEARN ABOUT AND FROM PRIMATES

U. Radespiel[1] , L.Chikhi[2]

[1]Institute of Zoology, University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover, Germany, [2]Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, Oeiras, Portugal

Organizer's Email: ute.radespiel@tiho-hannover.de

Habitat fragmentation and habitat loss are among the most serious threats to many species worldwide. This is particularly true for primates living in tropical forests. However, habitat fragmentation is a continuous process which has taken place over millennia. Genetic data are increasingly used to describe present-day patterns of genetic structure. Typically, the genetic variation in space is correlated to current barriers or anthropogenic disturbances (roads, agricultural landscapes, human settlements, rivers, etc.). While these approaches provide interesting tools for the conservation and management of endangered primates, it is also important to understand, how the genetic patterns observed today are influenced by processes that took place over millennia. In this symposium we wish to balance and integrate both theoretical simulation-based approaches and case studies trying to understand how climatic and anthropogenic changes shape present-day patterns and how they might be separated to improve our understanding of the underlying evolutionary forces and to define the direction of effective conservation actions.

Keyword: population genetics, evolution, conservation, modelling