

580-S

ECOLOGY OF TEMPERATE PRIMATES

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Temperate forest, which is characterized by strong but predictable seasonality in food availability and climate, is a marginal habitat for primates. However, some primates in East Asia, North and South Africa, Madagascar and South America live in temperate habitats. Therefore, although temperate primates are a minority in the Primate order, adaptation to temperate habitats must have evolved in various lineages. There have been few attempts to generalize the characteristics of temperate forest and the ecological adaptations (e.g., diet and ranging) of the primates that live there. It is expected that temperate primates will show unique responses to the seasonal changes of temperate habitats, which are markedly different from tropical habitats. In this symposium, we discuss the ecological adaptations of temperate primates. We first summarize the characteristics of temperate forest as a primate habitat based on global comparisons of fruit and/or young leaf availability and their seasonality. We then present case studies, focusing on the two types of primates that have been studied most extensively in temperate habitats: macaques and langurs (including snub-nosed monkeys).

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