

GROOMING INTERACTIONS IN WILD BONOBOs AT WAMBA IN THE LUO SCIENTIFIC RESERVE, DRC: COMPARISON WITH CHIMPANZEES.

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Although both *Pan* species, bonobos and chimpanzees, form multi-male and multi-female unit groups with fission-fusion grouping patterns, there are some differences in social behaviors and mechanism for social bonding between them. Social grooming plays an important role in maintaining social bonding among group members in both species. This study presents my findings of some characteristics in social grooming of wild bonobos, which are not present in chimpanzees. The study subjects were bonobos of the E1 group at Wamba in the Luo Scientific Reserve, DRC. All group members were identified and well habituated. I made observations in four different periods in 2007 - 2009. The total observation time was 1,590 hours across 221 days. Although chimpanzees are known to often form polyadic grooming cliques, i.e. cliques containing three or more individuals, bonobos mostly groomed with one partner. They usually formed dyadic grooming cliques. Observations clearly showed that bonobos who were grooming in a dyadic clique avoided forming triadic grooming cliques. Although chimpanzees often groom even when they are receiving grooming from others, bonobos rarely groomed mutually at the same time: a groomer usually stopped grooming when the partner started grooming it. I discuss these characteristics of grooming behavior of the two *Pan* species, in relation to differences in cohesiveness, grouping pattern, and mechanism for social bonding.

Keywords: bonobos, Wamba, social grooming, chimpanzees