

DO CAPUCHIN MONKEYS BEHAVE PROSOCIALITY TO OTHERS AT A SMALL EXPENSE OF THEIR REWARD IN AN EXPERIMENTAL FOOD SHARING SITUATION?

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Previously we demonstrated that capuchin monkeys (*Cebus apella*) behave prosocially to group members when they can obtain the same reward regardless of their own choice in a food sharing situation. Here we asked whether the same monkeys would behave prosocially, that is, provide a high-value reward, to group members at a small expense of their own reward's value. Two monkeys faced each other. The operator monkey chose one of two food containers placed between the participants, each containing a food item for him/herself and another for the recipient. The recipient passively received either a high- or low-value reward depending on the operator's choice. The operator obtained the high-value reward and the recipient passively received the low-value reward when the operator made a selfish choice. In contrast, both the operator and the recipient received a middle-value reward when the operator made a prosocial choice. The recipients were either the highest- or lowest-ranking member of the group and the operators were middle-ranking. The operators chose the selfish food container regardless of the presence of the recipients in more than 90 percent trials. However, only one of four operators chose the prosocial food container significantly more often in the presence of the recipient than when alone for both high- and low-ranking recipients. Our study suggests that most, though not all, capuchins may behave prosocially to others only when the value of their own reward is ensured. This study was approved by the Animal Research Committee of the Graduate School of Letters, Kyoto University.

Keywords: prosocial behavior, food sharing, social sensitivity, capuchin monkeys