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GROUP STRUCTURES OF *CERCOPITHECUS MONA* IN THE LAMA FOREST OF THE REPUBLIC OF BENIN

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Previous research on *Cercopithecus mona* has shown that there is a variation in group structure. In Grenada, where *C. mona* was introduced hundreds of years ago, mixed-sex groups contain only one male. Outside mixed-sex groups, multiple males may form all-male groups all year round. In Cameroon, some groups contain more than one male all year round, but no all-male groups were reported there. To examine this issue in *C. mona* inhabiting the Lama Forest of Benin, data were collected from the wild population between August 1995 and June 1997 (no data in May 1996). In addition to *C. mona*, four diurnal anthropoid species, including endangered *C. erythrogaster erythrogaster*, inhabit Lama. Data were collected during systematic walks on the trails for 5–10 days per month, semimonthly censuses, and *ad libitum* sampling. This resulted in 470 *C. mona* group sightings and 29 sightings of other species. Of 470, the structures of 227 groups were determined: 88 were one-male groups, 45 were multi-male groups, and 48 were groups of uncertain male number, but containing at least one male. 46 were all-male groups. The group size of mixed-sex groups was 13.3 (s.d. = 6.73) and all-male group contained 2.8 males on the average (s.d. = .87). The pattern seen in Lama is a mixture of what have been observed in other sites. The reason for the intraspecific variation is unknown, however, there is behavioral and physical evidence of intense male-male competition. *Cercopithecus campbelli*, a closely related species, also has a variable group structure.

Keywords: *Cercopithecus mona*, group structure, all-male group, intraspecific variation