

SYMPATRIC GREAT APES AND CERCOPITHECIDS IN THE MAHALE MOUNTAINS, TANZANIA AND THE KALINZU FOREST, UGANDA.

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During previous field studies on great apes, studies on sympatric primates have often been conducted. Little studies on them in detail, however, have been carried out in the home ranges of habituated great apes. There is a possibility of feeding competition between great apes and sympatric cercopithecids because both of them mainly feed on fruits. Chimpanzee hunting on sympatric cercopithecids may affect population dynamics of them because chimpanzees frequently hunt them. It is necessary of detailed studies on sympatric cercopithecids for understanding the evolution of socio-ecological characteristics of great apes and the traits of habitats of them. We have studied cercopithecids from these points of views at the Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania and the Kalinzu Forest, Uganda. Interspecific relationships between great apes and sympatric cercopithecids, especially the influence of chimpanzee hunting on changes of population densities of sympatric cercopithecids and possible feeding competition between chimpanzees and cercopithecids, were discussed by analyzing the data obtained at field studies there. The importance of such studies will also be suggested for contributing to the conservation of the ecosystem including great apes.

Keywords: chimpanzees, Cercopithecids, Hunting, Population ecology