BIPEDAL POSTURE AND TERRESTRIALITY IN BEARDED CAPUCHIN MONKEYS

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Examining how animals interact with the structural features of their environment can help us understand how selection shapes behavior and substrate use. We report on positional behavior, substrate use, and activity of wild bearded capuchins (*Cebus libidinosus*). These quadrupedal, arboreal primates inhabit a cerrado/caatinga ecotone in Gilbués/Brazil and routinely use stones to crack nuts. The data presented here focus on bipedality and terrestriality, and were collected using focal scan sampling (Altmann, 1974). Foraging occurred on 59% of scans, but significantly more often while individuals were on the ground. Nut cracking represented 1% of all activities. Of foraging activities occurring on the ground, 6% involved nut-cracking. Overall, bipedal postures were uncommon and in 70% of scans in which the monkey was bipedal it kept a forelimb in contact with a substrate to aid in support. The individuals were foraging in a vast majority of scans in which they stood bipedally. The capuchins routinely stood or crouched bipedally while cracking nuts, an activity that did not allow them to use any forelimb support. The data suggest that in this population of capuchins, bipedal posture occurs across substrates, but unassisted bipedal postures occur primarily during foraging while on the ground, and especially while cracking nuts. The monkeys' routine use of bipedal postures while cracking nuts is probably related to the large size of the stones the monkeys use in the study site. Thus a combination of landscape features and foraging behaviors contribute to bipedality and terrestriality in these monkeys.

Keywords: capuchin, tool, positional, ground