

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION AND RANGE USE SIZE IN TONKIN SNUB-NOSED (RHINOPITHECUS AVUNCULUS) MONKEY IN KHAU SPECIES AND HABITAT CONSERVATION AREA

Dong Thanh Hai

Vietnam Forestry University, Faculty of Forest Resources and Environment Management, Department of Wildlife Management, Xuan Mai, Chuong My, Hanoi, Vietnam.

Presenter's Email: donghaifuv@yahoo.com

Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*) is a critically endangered primate and endemic to northern Vietnam. Until recently, little information on its social organization and range use exists. I studied social organization and range use of *R. avunculus* over 12 months between September 2005 and August 2006 in Khau Ca Forest, Ha Giang Province. The Khau Ca population size is about 90 individuals. The basic social structure of *R. avunculus* is one-male unit (OMU) and these units often come together to form large groups for traveling, feeding, resting and sleeping. Like other species in genus *Rhinopithecus*, *R. avunculus* shows fission-fusion. One-male group sizes ranged from 7 to 15 individuals per group and averaged 11.3 individuals per group. The age/sex ratio of the one-male units was 1 adult male, 3.8 adult females, 1.5 sub-adult females, 2.5 juvenile females and 2 infants. With regard to range size and daily travel distance, the results suggest that day range length of *R. avunculus* is likely to follow typical pattern of genus *Rhinopithecus*. The monkeys were found to visit 25 quadrats (500 x 500m per quadrat) during study period, accounting for an area of 625 ha. Day range length ranged from 800 to 2030 m (average 1385 m \pm 125). Data available did not allow testing whether there is a shift between seasons in home range size and day range length of *R. avunculus*. Additional research is urgently needed to clarify this question.

Keywords: *Rhinopithecus avunculus*, social organization, home range size, daily range length