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FORAGING BEHAVIORS OF SILVERED LUTONG (*Trachipithecus auratus*) DURING THE 1997/98 EL NINO IN INDONESIA

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We report the foraging behaviors of folivorous silvered lutong (*Trachipithecus auratus*) from Pangandaran, West Java, Indonesia, during a drought of the 1997/98 *El Niño* event. Annual rainfall (mm) and days of rain (days) in 1997 and 1998 plus an assumed average year of 1996 were 711, 37 and 3,817, 163 plus 2,930, 123. One of the highest population densities in Colobinae is reported from the study site (*ca*. 350 head/km^2 constantly in records in a period of 1984 to 2008), and its possible reasons are suggested. This study was carried during the periods of September/October/November (36 days) in 1997 and of August/September (25 days) in 1998. We recorded the tree names foraged on, foraging duration, DBH and the number of cofeeders in a feeding bout in a tree, in order to evaluate food preferences, *i.e.*, (total consumption by cofeeders in a bout)/(estimate of leaf biomass). The rank order of the preferences in each species indicates the lutong mainly foraged on some secondary succession tree species and artificially introduced species. Most preferential items were buds and shoots of the introduced species, *e.g.*, mahogany and *Dalbergia*, of maritime cosmopolitan tree species, and of fig trees in both 1997 and 1998. Severity is in the 1997's, but the lutong mainly foraged on mahogany, which put forth bud in spite of the drought. One of the possible reasons is that constant high density of the lutong population may have the key resources that exist in the ecosystem during the periods against survival pressure.

Keywords: Trachipithecus auratus, folivore, foraging behaviors, the 1997/98 El Niño