

RANGING BEHAVIORS IN MIXED-SPECIES ASSOCIATIONS OF BLUE MONKEYS AND RED-TAILED MONKEYS IN THE KALINZU FOREST, UGANDA

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Mixed-species associations of primates have frequently been reported in Africa and South America. However, the mechanisms that enable such associations remain unknown. We examined the ranging patterns of associative groups of blue monkeys (*Cercopithecus mitis*) and red-tailed monkeys (*C. ascanius*), via simultaneous observations of the two species, in the Kalinzu Forest, Uganda. The two groups of blue and red-tailed monkeys showed extensive overlapping of their home ranges. The blue monkeys tended to travel ahead of the red-tailed monkeys. When the blue monkeys initiated movements away from an area, red-tailed monkeys increased their rate of travel, thereby decreasing the distance between the two groups. These results suggest that red-tailed monkeys are responsible for actively maintaining the mixed-species associations. We observed that both blue and red-tailed monkeys responded to each other's predator alarm calls. In the Kalinzu Forest, blue and red-tailed monkeys might form mixed-species association for predator avoidance. Moreover, we observed members of each species simultaneously interacting aggressively with neighboring mixed-species groups around the border areas of their home ranges. The mean distances between focal animals of the blue and red-tailed monkeys were shorter when they ranged in the border area than that in the group's own area. Associations between blue and red-tailed monkeys might also function in defending food resources against neighboring groups.

Keywords: mixed-species associations, interspecies distance, rate of travel, direction of travel