

ECOLOGICAL CONTEXT OF *CAMPONOTUS* ANT-FISHING AMONG THE M GROUP CHIMPANZEES IN MAHALE MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK, TANZANIA.

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In Mahale, chimpanzees have been observed to use tools to fish for arboreal *Camponotus* ants since 1970's, and the pioneering studies of this behavior were conducted on the K group chimpanzees, which was extinct in 1980's. I have studied the ecological setting of *Camponotus* ant-fishing by the M group chimpanzees, which is currently the main study group, from the data collected between 2002 and 2004. Two species of *Camponotus* ants were identified in association with tool-using by chimpanzees from 49 ant-fishing sites. As ant-fishing sites, 24 species (92 individuals) of host trees of *Camponotus* ants were identified, and particular tree species were frequently used. The trees used for ant-fishing sites were distributed only in the lowland forest, whereas no ant-fishing was observed in the upper side of the study area. The M group chimpanzees consumed about 390 ants (ca. 13 grams) per ant-fishing bout which lasted 24.8 minutes on average. With those data, I will discuss the ecological context of ant-fishing behavior and make comparisons with the previous studies of *Camponotus* ant-fishing by the former K group at Mahale and other populations of chimpanzees.

Keywords: chimpanzee, *Camponotus* ant-fishing, Mahale, culture