

**DOMINANCE AND SOCIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN FEMALES OF A TOLERANT MACAQUE SPECIES, *MACACA NIGRA*.**

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Though sharing the same fundamental features of social organization, macaques are strikingly diverse in their social styles, gradually ranging from despotic to tolerant. The reasons for the evolution of such diversity are still not fully understood, mainly due to a lack of studies on the factors potentially influencing social styles in species of the tolerant side of the spectrum. Whereas for the well-studied despotic species, both kinship and dominance have been shown to greatly affect female relationships, for the less-known tolerant species, those parameters are predicted to have little influence on female social life. The aim of this study was therefore to investigate the effect of dominance relationships on female social interactions in a tolerant species, the crested macaque (*Macaca nigra*). More than 2500 hours of focal data including activity, proximity and social behaviours from 42 females were collected in two groups, in the Tangkoko Nature Reserve, Indonesia. Aggressive and affiliative behaviours and spatial proximity were analysed in regard to dominance rank. Aggression and affiliation rates, grooming and proximity within one-body-length were little affected by dominance rank. Furthermore, social interactions involved many partners, independently of rank. Thus, in line with the predictions and contrary to what has been described in despotic species, wild female crested macaques were not constrained in their choice of and time invested in social partners. These results give much needed information about female social relationships in a tolerant species and contribute to a better understanding of the great variation in social styles within the macaque genus.

Keywords: female social interactions, dominance relationships, tolerant society, *Macaca nigra*.