

**DOMINANCE STYLE AMONG FEMALE WHITE-FACED CAPUCHINS (*CEBUS CAPUCINUS*) AT SANTA ROSA NATIONAL PARK, COSTA RICA**

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Dominance style is created by a suite of traits (e.g., bidirectionality of aggression, kin bias and post-conflict conciliation) that have been found to covary among macaques. Dominance styles vary along a continuum from 'despotic' (strict) to 'relaxed' (tolerant) in response to social and ecological pressures. The white-faced capuchin is a female philopatric and male dispersed species that exhibits nepotistic, linear, strong and stable dominance hierarchies similar to many resident-nepotistic Old World monkeys. We studied the social behavior of female capuchins to determine if traits covary to create a dominance style akin to Old World monkeys. We observed 22 adult females in three habituated groups from January – May 2008 at Santa Rosa National Park, Costa Rica and constructed dominance hierarchies based on the direction of dyadic submission. Females exhibited low bidirectionality of aggression across three measures: 1) directional inconsistency index (6.9 – 18.8%); 2) Dyads-Up index (0 – 3.2%); and 3) percentage of counteraggression (0 – 3.6%). We assessed the degree of kin bias to determine if tolerance was exhibited more towards close maternal kin ( $r \geq 0.25$ ) than distant/non-kin and found significant kin bias in approach and grooming behaviors but not proximity or co-feeding. These results suggest that relative to macaques, white-faced capuchins exhibit an intermediate (not entirely despotic or tolerant) dominance style. Further studies within the genus *Cebus*, or sister taxa *Saimiri*, will help to expand our knowledge of dominance style and assess behavioral variation among platyrrhines.

Keywords: competitive strategies, kin bias, neotropical primates, social behavior