

MALE-INFANT SOCIAL INTERACTIONS IN WILD CRESTED MACAQUES (*MACACA NIGRA*)

D. Kerhoas^{1,2,3}, M. Agil⁴, D. Perwitasari Farajallah^{5,6}, A. Engelhardt³, A. Widdig^{1,2}

¹*Jr. Research Group of Primate Kin Selection, Dept. of Primatology, Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany,* ²*Behavioral Ecology Group, Faculty of Biosciences, Pharmacy and Psychology, University of Leipzig, Germany,* ³*Jr. Research Group Primate Sexual Selection, Dept. of Reproductive Biology, German Primate Centre, Göttingen, Germany,* ⁴*Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia,* ⁵*Primate Research Centre, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia,* ⁶*Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Bogor Agricultural University, Bogor, Indonesia*

Presenter's Email: daphne.kerhoas@eva.mpg.de

Although male affiliative interactions with infants have rarely been observed in most multi-male/multi-female primate societies, recent studies have shown that males may provide protection to offspring during conflict, increase infant survival and even accelerate the physiological maturation of their offspring with their presence. At the same time, males may trade infant care for mating opportunities. Infant care thus seems to provide a clear fitness gain for males even in these societies and may be a male reproductive strategy. Studies on this phenomenon are however still scarce. We collected data on spatial proximity, affiliative and aggressive behaviours in wild crested macaques over a year (850 hours of observation for 11 infants) in the Tangkoko Nature Reserve (Indonesia) and analyzed the occurrence, nature and proximate effect of male-infant social interactions. Each infant directed affiliative behaviours towards one male above others and was in close proximity (within 5 meters) of this male more often than of any other male. Similarly, each infant received more aggressive behaviours from another particular male, with the two males varying from infant to infant. These results demonstrate the existence of an important set of social interactions between males and infants, probably reflecting two non exclusive male post birth reproductive strategies, namely support of potential offspring and suppression of likely unrelated youngsters. How males were related to these infants and how mating success with the mothers affected male behaviour will be investigated in future genetic and behavioural analysis.

Keywords: Male-infant interactions, multi-male groups, male reproductive strategy, kin support