

TWINNING FREQUENCY OF JAPANESE MACAQUES (*MACACA FUSCATA*) AT TAKASAKIYAMA

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In a wild-living, artificially provisioned population of Japanese macaques at Takasakiyama, in southern Japan, 9 sets of twins were recorded from more than 12 thousands known deliveries, over a 56 year study period. Recorded twinning frequency was less than 0.1 %. During the first 28 year period artificial food was given until macaques were satiated and population size increased rapidly. In the second 28 year period provisioned food was restricted to about half of the former period's calorific content. Seven sets of twins were born in the first period and two sets in the second. Twining frequency in the two periods was about 0.14 % and 0.03 %, respectively. In comparing studies of other Catarrhine primate samples, we hypothesize that twinning frequency is influenced by nutritional and other living conditions and we suggest that living conditions should be carefully evaluated in studies of twinning frequency.

Keywords: multiplet, nutritional condition, wild and captive, prenatal mortality