

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR OF GREY-SHANKED DOUC MONKEYS IN VIETNAM

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This first long-term study on feeding behaviour of grey-shanked douc monkeys (*Pygathrix cinerea*) was carried out in Kon Ka Kinh National Park, Gia Lai Province, Vietnam from August 2007 to August 2008. 480 hours of data using the instantaneous scan-sampling method were collected on a super-group of 88 individuals. The phenology of the forest was studied on 4 vegetation transects. 166 plant species of 40 plant families were identified as foods eaten by the monkeys. As a proportion of time spent feeding, the grey-shanked douc monkeys spent 49.5% of time eating young leaves, 21.9% eating ripe fruits, 19.1% eating unripe fruits and 9.3% eating mature leaves. These proportions varied significantly between months. The highest proportion of young leaves consumed was in February 2008 and highest proportion of fruits was in October 2007. Monthly consumption of young leaves was significant correlated with their abundance, but the monthly consumption of fruits was not significant correlated with the abundance of fruits. Consumption of food items also changed significantly between wet and dry seasons. The monkeys fed mostly on young leaves in the dry season (82%) when these were abundant, but switched to fruits (~70%) in the wet season, when young leaves became scarce and fruits abundant. These results reveal that the diet of *Pygathrix cinerea* is flexible and highly effected by season. In this area, the feeding behaviour of the species fits inbetween the folivorous and frugivous monkeys.

Keywords: Vietnam, *Pygathrix cinerea*, feeding behaviour, seasonality