

PHYLOGENY, TAXONOMY AND DISTRIBUTION OF CRESTED GIBBONS (GENUS NOMASCUS)

C. Roos¹, K. Hammerschmidt², V. N. Thinh¹

¹*Primate Genetics Laboratory, German Primate Center, Kellnerweg 4, 37077 Goettingen, Germany*

²*Laboratory of Cognitive Ethology, German Primate Center, Kellnerweg 4, 37077 Goettingen, Germany*

Presenter's Email: croos@dpz.eu

All crested gibbons are classified as Endangered or Critically Endangered. However, no consensus of crested gibbon taxonomy exists and the distribution areas of different taxa are not well defined, although several classification schemes based on morphology, fur colouration and genetics are available. This study was set up to clarify the taxonomy of crested gibbons and to elucidate their exact distribution zones. An approach was used in which acoustic and genetic data were combined. 53 call parameters from acoustic signals were extracted and analysed. As genetic marker we sequenced the mitochondrial cytochrome b gene. Therefore, we used samples collected during field surveys and from museum and zoo specimens. Our data suggest the recognition of seven crested gibbon species. Moreover, our data confirm the suggested distribution for the northern species, but clear shifts for the distribution of the southern species is indicated. Our research provides urgently required information for crested gibbon conservation.

Keywords: phylogeny, mitochondrial DNA, acoustics, Nomascus