

ALLOCATION OF MATERNAL AND ALLOMATERNAL FORAGING ASSISTANCE IN WILD GOLDEN LION TAMARINS

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The parent-offspring conflict hypothesis suggests that as young mature they reach a developmental threshold at which they will seek more investment than parents are willing to give (Trivers 1974). I conducted a longitudinal study of young wild golden lion tamarins (*Leontopithecus rosalia*) 11-56 weeks of age, in nine groups, to examine the factors that influence allocation of caretaking behavior by parents and alloparents. Throughout their first year life, young tamarins receive foraging assistance from adults. This assistance takes several forms, including direct provisioning and tolerance of juveniles in close proximity during foraging activities (coforaging). When juveniles are young, they rely heavily on provisioning by older group members to meet their nutritional needs. During this period, food-transfer rates were positively correlated with adult foraging-return rates. As juveniles approach adulthood, their rates of independent foraging success increase such that they require much less provisioning from their elders. At this developmental stage, food-transfer rates depended on the foraging success rates of the juveniles themselves. Food-transfer rates to older juveniles were negatively correlated with adult foraging return rates. Thus, adults were less willing to relinquish food to older juveniles when resource abundance was high. Rates of coforaging by juveniles, in contrast, depended on neither adult nor the juvenile's own foraging return rates. Nonetheless, coforaging for prey decreased as a function of juvenile age; coforaging for vegetation resources did not. Little evidence was found for caretaker-offspring conflict among the tamarins. Rather, a communication system exists which relies on constant feedback as to juvenile need.

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