

HIMALAYAN GRAY LANGURS: ON THE ECOLOGICAL EXTREMES OF GENERALIST PRIMATES

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Primates living in temperate or alpine ecozones provide excellent opportunities for documenting the limits of phenotypic plasticity in our Order. One striking example is the gray langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*) which is distributed over much of the Indian subcontinent, including at high elevations in the Himalayas. A historical review of Himalayan gray langur field studies provides a useful dataset to address larger theoretical questions in primate evolution. These monkeys exhibit a pattern of behavior and ecology somewhat different from lowland *Semnopithecus*, including predominantly multi-male, multi-female troops, a paucity of all-male bands or infanticide, morphological and behavioral buffers to inclement weather, and markedly seasonal patterns of resource use and reproduction. Contrary to generalizations frequently made in primate socioecological and cognitive models, Himalayan langurs maintain large home ranges, exhibit long daily paths, and engage in extractive foraging and contest competition, despite their largely folivorous diet. These findings are interpreted in light of classical evolutionary ecology, and suggest future directions for the quantification of resource patchiness and behavioral complexity.

Keywords: *Semnopithecus*, socioecology, cognition, behavior