

RETHINKING THE CAUSES OF SEX-SPECIFIC AGGRESSION DURING INTERGROUP ENCOUNTERS: LESSONS FROM GREY-CHEEKED MANGABEYS (*LOPHOCEBUS ALBIGENA*) AND REDTAIL MONKEYS (*CERCOPITHECUS ASCANIUS*)

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Intergroup encounters (IGEs) occur in many primates, sometimes involving mainly males, mainly females, or members of both sexes, but the factors that account for disparate levels of male and female participation during IGEs remain unclear. This study aimed to determine whether hypotheses concerning male and female defense of food, male defense of fertile females, and male defense of vulnerable infants during IGEs could predict sex-specific participation in IGEs for redbtail monkeys and grey-cheeked mangabeys. My team collected sex-specific behavioral data during 123 redbtail and 63 mangabey IGEs over 15 months at the Ngogo research station in Kibale National Park, during simultaneous follows of four redbtail and six mangabey groups. I used multiple logistic regression models to test the four hypotheses for each species-sex class. Aggressive participation by males and females of both species was positively correlated with food availability; male behavior in both species was unaffected by the presence of fertile females; and mangabey males were more likely to attack groups with vulnerable infants but neither mangabey nor redbtail male behavior was affected by the presence of infants within their own groups. Contrary to widespread assumptions, this study demonstrates that male participation does not always function as mate defense, that females can defend food despite participating at low frequencies, that males also defend food, and that food defense may be linked to short- or long-term feeding site value as well as overall food abundance.

Keywords: intergroup, competition, mangabey, redbtail