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**QUO VADIS? DUAL SEX EMIGRATION IN A FEMALE-BONDED CERCOPITHECINE SPECIES, THE BONNET MACAQUE, IN BANDIPUR NATIONAL PARK, SOUTHERN INDIA**

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The proximate causes of primate dispersal, variable across species, populations and individuals, include mate competition, mate choice, resource competition and inbreeding avoidance. Inter-group transfer is nearly universal amongst males of female-bonded cercopithecine species but females typically remain in related matriline and rarely transfer out of their natal groups. In a nine-year study on the demography and socioecology of about 25 troops of wild bonnet macaques in the Bandipur National Park, southern India, we have documented the evolution of a new unimale form of social organisation, characterised by unique demographic and behavioural features. Dispersal by adult males in this population is driven by mate competition and the demonstrated mate choice of females for novel males while juvenile males transfer out of unimale groups due to aggression received from the single adult male. The unique dispersal displayed by 10 juvenile, four subadult and 14 adult females from eight unimale and four multimale troops, documented for the first time in this species, appears to be driven by two factors. Several ecological and anthropogenic conditions have led to the reduction of female group size, promoted by the group emigration of related females out of their natal troops. Individual females, in contrast, often move out of unimale troops possibly in search of novel mating partners. The phenotypic flexibility displayed by this species thus appears to be unique but could be revealed in other species by comparative, long-term studies of populations in varying ecological environments.

Keywords: Dispersal, competition, mate choice, social organisation