

## IMPLICATION OF VIDEOGRAPHY FOR PRIMATE POSITIONAL BEHAVIOR STUDY: A STUDY CASE OF *RHINOPITHECUS AVUNCULUS* IN VIETNAM

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Traditional methods of visual observation and written data collection are commonly used in positional behavioral studies of habituated and highly visible primates. More challenging field conditions, involving rugged terrain, dense forest cover, and unhabituated animals often make detailed assessments of locomotion and positional behavior more difficult. To ameliorate such challenges, we supplemented traditional observational methods with detailed video recordings at Chau Ca, Ha Giang Province, northeastern Vietnam. The physical structure of this primary forest, situated on a limestone substrate, impedes continuous follows of the semi-habituated Tonkin snub-nosed monkey (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*), a critically endangered primate endemic to Vietnam. Often in this habitat, it is difficult to follow focal animals on foot while at the same time recording behavioral data. To assist in gathering and preserving data, handheld camcorders were used to collect more than 200 hours of detailed recordings of Tonkin nub-nosed monkey positional behaviors. Although analysis of video footage can be more time consuming compared with observational methods, it may provide the advantage of capturing behaviors that might otherwise be missed using more standard data collection methods on difficult terrain. Video footage can also be used to enhance the accuracy of interpretation of behavioral observations by limiting observer bias. Finally, video footage is particularly useful for: 1) documenting a positional behavioral repertoire in newly habituated animals for use in future studies, and 2) providing digital media for conservation education and outreach to classrooms and the general public.

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