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STICK TOOL USE BY CAPUCHIN MONKEYS IN SERRA DA CAPIVARA, BRAZIL

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The use of stone tools by wild bearded capuchin monkeys (*Cebus libidinosus*) is known in many populations in savannah-like environments, like Cerrado and Caatinga. But, to date, the only one known to frequently use stick tools, in addition to stone tools, is the population in Serra da Capivara National Park (SCNP), Brazil. They manufacture and use sticks as probes, mostly to extract food items (insects and small vertebrates) from rock clefts and holes in tree trunks, but also for other, non-foraging functions as well. For 2 years we collected data on tool use by 2 sympatric groups in SCNP and, when possible, collected and measured the used tools. We found differences in size between tools for different goals and also as a function of user age. The rates of stick tool use were higher for juveniles than for adults, and also higher for males than for females. The overall rate of success when using probing tools was low, but strongly correlated with the age of the individuals. Some stick tools were used sequentially with stone tools in the same task. The use of stick tools is an important part of these monkeys' tool-kit, and, along with the multiple forms of stone tool use exhibited by these monkeys, constitutes the largest known capuchin monkeys' tool-kit. [Grants: FAPESP, CNPq and CAPES. Support: FUMDHAM]

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