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GREGARIOUS LEMURS OF SOUTHERN MADAGASCAR: ECOLOGY AND SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

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Group living in lemurs evolved independently from anthropoid primates. Therefore gregarious lemurs are some important taxon groups to understand primate social evolution. Lemurs have some unique ecological, social, and morphological traits (e.g. existence of cathemeral species, female dominance, unusual sex ratio, and lack of sexual dimorphism of body size). For the comprehensive understanding of lemur social evolution, it is required to combine updating ecological and social behavioral information. However, updating data of gregarious lemurs are often discussed in each research topic, because the focus of research interest is different. In southern Madagascar, researchers from various countries are conducting research on ecological or social behavioral topics of gregarious lemurs. In this symposium, we attempt to exchange updating information and ideas from active field studies in southern Madagascar. We expect that this symposium would promote understanding of each field researcher who has different academic and cultural background including young Malagasy researchers.

Keywords: Lemurs, Madagascar, group-living, social evolution