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## MULTI-LEVEL SOCIETIS IN PRIMATES

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In this symposium, we attempt to investigate the variations of multi-level society in non-human primates and to understanding what kind of socio-ecological factors influenced its evolution. The multi-level society is one of the most complex social systems in non-human primates and stimulated many primatologists to discuss its adaptive value. Previously, it had been thought that only two baboon species have such unique society in non-human primates, i.e. geladas (*Theropithecus gelada*) and hamadryas baboons (*Papio hamadryas*). In these two species, one-male units (OMU) are the basic social units within their society, with many OMUs forming higher social levels, such as band (or clan) and troop. Recent studies on odd-nosed colobines, however, suggested that several species, such as snub-nosed monkeys (*Rhinopithecus avunculus*, *R. bieti*, *R. brelichi* and *R. roxellana*) and proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*), might also form multi-level social systems that superficially similar with those of gelada and Hamadryas baboons. Some comparative reviews on primate social systems, such as Grueter & Zinner (2004), have positioned the society reported in the odd-nosed colobines as same level as the multi-level society in baboons though their social dynamics could be very different. Interestingly, these baboons and snub-nosed monkeys are mostly distributed in marginal habitats. To further understand and compare this unique social system in non-human primates, it is needed to exchange and share information among researchers studying on the species that form multi-level social systems.

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