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**ACOUSTIC VARIABILITY IN NONHUMAN PRIMATES: DETERMINANTS AND CONTROLS**

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Vocal production plasticity (i.e. ability to modify the acoustic features of sounds), is considered one of the most remarkable attributes separating human speech and nonhuman primates' vocal communication. While human language is based on the flexible control of the vocal apparatus, most early studies suggested that monkeys and apes did not show any evidence of vocal plasticity. However, recent studies are challenging the supposed dichotomy between human and nonhuman primates. There is more plasticity in nonhuman primates than previously considered. First, acoustic changes which are not genetically determined but habitat- and/or social-dependent have been evidenced in nonhuman primates both in affiliative and alarm calls. Second, immediate acoustic modifications of nonhuman primate calls have been reported in captivity during interactions with congeners or human caretakers. Third, morphological investigations revealed, to some extent, a certain control of the vocal apparatus. By inviting speakers from various fields of research, we propose a symposium reconsidering the possibility of acoustic variability in nonhuman primates and reviewing its potential determinants and controls. For this purpose, we will attempt to assess the foundation of vocal control from a morphological perspective and to illustrate remarkable evidence for vocal production plasticity.

Keywords: vocal communication, vocal plasticity, acoustic variability