



Animation scientifique du CSRS N° 4–2008

Jeudi, 27 novembre 2008 (Salle Norbert Behi, CSRS, Km17 Adiopodoumé) à 15H00

Thème : Bilan énergétique quotidien et gain de protéine chez les chimpanzés (*Pan troglodytes verus*, Blumenbach 1779) au Parc National de Taï, Côte d'Ivoire*.

[Daily Energy balance and protein gain among wild chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes verus*, Blumenbach 1779) in the Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire]*

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Résumé:

Energy balance and protein gain are very important contributors to an animal's survival. Although data are available for certain species in captive settings, little is known about primates living in natural environment. Using detail behavioral, phenological and chemical data on a well habituated chimpanzee community from the Taï National Park, Côte d'Ivoire, we investigated first how energy balance and protein gain across age-sex categories is affected by seasonal variation of food availability and second how chimpanzees adapt their feeding behaviors to these fluctuations. Comparisons between fruiting seasons characterized by quantitative and qualitative differences revealed that it is the latter aspect that had the largest effect on individuals. Moreover, energy balance and protein gain are significantly influenced by food availability. Furthermore, in a given fruit season, energy balance and protein gain do not vary between age-sex categories. There is variation, however, within adult male and young of both sexes across seasons, but not so within adult females. Our study revealed important effect of periods of food limitations to which chimpanzees reacted by reducing their daily journey length and increasing their feeding time.

Key words: energy balance; protein gain; fruit seasons; chimpanzee; Taï National Park

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