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## The behavioral development of free-living chimpanzee babies and infants

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## SUMMARY

### I. INTRODUCTION AND STUDY AIMS

This study aims to achieve an ontogenetically oriented understanding of behavioural phenomena during early development (first 2 years) of free-living chimpanzees. For this purpose, six chimpanzee babies and infants were observed in the Gombe National Park, Tanzania. The main question which dominates this publication is whether it is possible to find out what type of organization is underlying the developing behaviour. Furthermore, comparisons are made between the results of this publication and the human literature with the intention to uncover aspects of human behaviour which would remain unnoticed without such a comparison.

### II. GENERAL METHODS

The study-area, the study-population and the study-subjects are described. The observations under natural conditions were made in terms of a list of behaviour-categories and a list of environmental categories which exerted influence on the subjects. The way in which these lists were assembled and the criteria which were used to define the behaviour-categories are spelled out. These criteria change with age. Before the age of 5 months only a few motor-patterns could be defined. Most other categories concern the end-result of motor activity and not the motor-activity itself. After the age of 5 months, an increasing number of motor-patterns could be distinguished. These were defined according to form. Only much later (at the age of 12 months) was it possible to define behaviour categories according to function. Another factor which played a role in defining the behaviour-categories was the finding that it was impossible to describe the behaviour of the whole organism in terms of mutually exclusive categories. Instead, categories concerning body-parts were defined and the behaviour of the whole organism was described in terms of a sequence of combinations of such categories. Data collection, sampling, and observer reliability are described.

### III. PERI-NATAL PERIOD

During the pre-natal period self-protective behaviour by the mother was absent. Only during the last day before parturition the mother restricted her movements and avoided social activity. The construction of a "daynest" was found to be the best indicator of parturition being due.

Some anatomical aspects of the newborn baby such as hairlessness, skin-pigmentation, skin-colour and tooth-eruption are dealt with. Furthermore, the limited behaviour repertoire of the chimpanzee neonate is described. Extra attention is given to the waking recurrences, to the activities of sucking, clinging, mountaineering, and rooting and to the vocalizations effort-grunt, staccato, uh-grunt, whimper-ho and whimpering.

The waking- and sucking cycles of one chimpanzee baby are described and the differences between this baby and captive chimpanzees are compared with the differences between human babies of different caretaking environments.

During the daytime of the first week of life the free-living baby was fast asleep for at least twenty minutes every three hours. In between,