
Dispersal in the Desert: Genetic Diversity and Population Structure of the Guinea Baboon (*Papio papio*) in Mauritania

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Dispersal is an important evolutionary force impacting a species' spatial structure and global persistence. Dispersal strategies are frequently sex-biased in mammal species with polygamous or promiscuous mating systems. Although males usually disperse at higher rates than females, the reverse pattern has been identified for several species, including the Guinea baboon (*Papio papio*). Guinea baboons occupy a small distribution area in West Africa and have been mostly studied in Senegal and Guinea-Bissau. Molecular data point to female dispersal and male philopatry in Senegal and historical female-biased dispersal pattern over the entire range. However, intra-specific variation in the extent and direction of sex-biased dispersal was found in Guinea-Bissau, where gene flow was mediated through both sexes. This study aims at investigating the dispersal strategies of Guinea baboons in Mauritania using non-invasive faecal samples and contributing to the conservation of these populations. In Mauritania, the populations are restricted to the southern mountains and, considering the large distance between suitable areas for baboons, it is expected that there will be some degree of isolation between the populations of the mountains and between these populations and the ones in the core area of the species' range. Results obtained from the analysis and comparison of both markers suggest that the Mauritanian populations have similar levels of genetic diversity as the populations of other countries. There is no evidence of strong mitochondrial spatial structure, indicating a historical female-biased dispersal.

The Iberian Contribution to Non-Human Primate Natural History in the Age of Discovery

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As a centre of overseas expeditions undertaken during the 15th and 16th centuries, the Iberian Peninsula, within the kingdoms of Spain and Portugal, played a major role in descriptions and chronicles of the animals and plants encountered in the recently discovered lands, namely sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South America and India. Explorers, soldiers, historians and religious men left us a complex framework of the natural world of those lands. This new body of knowledge, based largely on empirical reports full of details and first-hand observations, emerged as the first nucleus of the natural history of many primate species, though it is still scarcely considered in the history of primatology. The Portuguese and Spanish also became major importers of natural resources from these lands and, among the rich variety of natural goods and animals, non-human primates were imported in great quantity to be sold and distributed all over Europe. Our research documented that more than 20 different taxa of primates from Africa and South America reached Europe alive. Their presence at noble and wealthy residences is traceable in the European artistic, cultural and naturalistic productions of that time. The present work will give a summary of the Iberian contribution to non-human primate knowledge in early modern times, pointing out: (a) the most important characteristics highlighted in the 16th century literary sources of Spain and Portugal; (b) the taxa described and their ethnotaxonomy; (c) the species imported and their main trade routes.