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Grooming Relationships Between Adult Males and Other Group Members in Cooperatively Breeding Moustached Tamarins (*Saguinus mystax*)

Eneko Alberdi Echart¹, Susana Sánchez Rodríguez¹, Eckhard W. Heymann², Petra Löttker^{2,3}, Maren Huck^{2,4}

¹Departamento de Psicología Biológica y de la Salud, Facultad de Psicología, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Madrid, Spain

²Abteilung Verhaltensökologie & Soziobiologie, Deutsches Primatenzentrum, Göttingen, Germany

³Institut für Neuro- und Verhaltensbiologie, Abteilung Verhaltensbiologie, Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster, Münster, Germany

⁴Lehrstuhl für Verhaltensforschung, Universität Bielefeld, Bielefeld, Germany

E-mail: enekoalberdi@yahoo.es

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Grooming is considered a tradable commodity for several species to be exchanged for other benefits. Moreover, grooming has been used in many primates to assess the quality of a relationship between two or more individuals. Our aim was to examine grooming relations between adult males with other group members in moustached tamarins (*Saguinus mystax*) considering inclusive fitness and direct reciprocity. We studied four wild groups with known genetic relationships located in a primary rainforest in the northeastern Peru, two from Jan-Dec 2001 by P. Löttker and M. Huck and two from Sep-2009-May-2010 by the first author. The results obtained showed an intense grooming activity of both breeding and potentially breeding males

and suggest a preference to groom each other more than other partner classes. Since genetic analyses revealed that potentially breeding males in the different study groups were mainly siblings, we concluded that they maximize their benefits through inclusive fitness promoting the survival and reproduction of their siblings with breeding status. Comparison of the amount of grooming each male category directed or received to/from other partner classes revealed that breeding males tended to groom breeding females longer than potentially breeding males. As observed values showed that breeding males also received more grooming from breeding females than potentially breeding males, such could be interpreted as an effort from part of the breeding pair to secure their breeding position. Finally, in relation to non-breeding offspring, we did not find evidence of “pay-to-stay” and “pay-for-help” mechanisms to regulate group size.

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