HUMBLE MYSTERIES: STUDYING THE UNKNOWN LIVES OF LEAF-EATING MONKEYS

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Introduction	Res
The Asian colobines are a colourful and ecolo group of leaf-eating monkeys, comprising of (Mittermeier, 2013):	gically diverse Figu seven genera
 Presbytis Trachypithecus Semnopithecus Simias 	ecus
While many species are threatened with extin remain largely unstudied. This hampers suitab action for the dwindling populations (Moody	ction, they ole conservation Feed et al. 2011). 43,6
In this study I present the first data on the eco Endangered Germain's langur (<i>Trachypithecu</i> aid in the understanding and conservation of t Asian colobines as a whole (Phan & Stevens, 2013).	logy of the <i>s germaini)</i> , to his species and 2012; IUCN,
Method	
 Who 5 captive adult (2) and sub-adult (3) langurs (<i>T. germaini</i>). Where 3000 m2 naturalistic enclosure, ACC When 15 May - 31 July 2014 How Instantaneous focal sampling (Martin 1993), 20-minute samples with 5-mi From 6:00 to 18:00hr. Inter-observer agreement: 95% 	Germain's ² B, Cambodia. n and Bateson, nute intervals.
Conclusion	
This study adds novel information about the Gerractivity budget of <i>T. germaini</i> largely agrees with	nain's langur. TheShouthe overallLang

pattern found in *Trachypithecus* species, with high percentages of feeding and resting, and low percentages of 'social' behaviours (Appendix 1).

Differences in activity budget were most likely caused by the captive environment and provisioning of food, and may have consequences for successive reintroduction efforts (Soorae, 2008).

Recommendations for an optimal pre-reintroduction environment:

- Sufficient size
- High quality vegetation
- Appropriate feeding times

Could the gentle nature of leaf-eating monkeys perhaps teach us something about what 'being social' means?



ald we redefine the term 'social'?

gurs and other colobines are generally described as rather 'unsocial' primates (e.g. Kirkpatrick, 2011), as they are less frequently involved in grooming as fruit-eating species such as macaques.

But does this label still apply considering that *T. germaini* spent 18,2% of daytime in close social proximity with another individual, and agonistic behaviours were virtually absent?

Final words

With more studies on the behaviour of langurs and other Asian colobines, we not only gain more understanding, but also contribute to the survival of these gentle, threatened primates.











Figure 4. Mycophagy in *T. germaini*

typically crouched position (Fig. 4b-d).

Mycophagy & Geophagy

observed in this species.

Mycophagy

I observed *T. germaini* feeding on mushrooms (3x)

and soil (4x), which until now was not yet directly

The langurs would spend an entire afternoon 'hunting'

undergrowth to collect them (Fig. 4a), then ascend to

higher forest strata to consume them while seated in a

Trachypithecus are foregut fermenters and thereby able

to extract the mushrooms' protein. Mushrooms might

supplement dietary deficiencies (Hanson et al., 2003).

for mushrooms, moving quickly through dense



Geophagy

Geophagy is performed mainly for mineral supplementation, adsorption of toxins, to control diarrhoea or to adjust the gut's pH (Krishnamani & Mahaney, 2000).

T. germaini would dig up moist soil and kneaded the sand before ingesting it. On one occasion, a langur found a large sandy leaf and licked off the sand (Fig. 5).

Figure 5 Geophagy in T. germaini



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