0739

SOCIAL STRUCTURE AND PREVALENCE OF SIVagm IN TWO GROUPS OF GREEN MONKEYS, *CERCOPITHECUS AETHIOPS SABAEUS*, IN SENEGAL.

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In contrast to evaluations of the prevalence of SIVagm in individuals of unknown origin in different regions of Africa, the aim of this stduy was to measure the prevalence of the retrovirus among identified individuals of known groups. The members of two groups of green monkeys, *Cercopithecus aethiops sabaeus* from the Fathala forest, Parc National du Delta du Saloum, Senegal, were captured, sampled, fitted with radio transmitters, then released. Samples from 46 individuals were tested using HIV2 tests. Individuals of known virological status were followed and observed directly. Social structure and the SIVagm prevalence levels are presented. The results will help in constructing a model of the transmission of SIV in wild green monkeys.

0740

MITOCHONDRIAL DNA D-LOOP OF GORILLAS.

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Mitochondrial DNA D-loop sequence analysis was used to evaluate phylogenetic relationships, genetic variability, and geographic structure of mitochondrial DNA lineages in the three subspecies of gorillas (*Gorilla gorilla*). Wilde gorilla DNA was obtained by polymerase chain reaction amplification of sheld hair follicle extracts. A 250-basepair hypervariable D-loop region was examined from 43 individuals. The two east central African subspecies, eastern lowland gorillas (*G. g. graueri*) and mountain gorillas (*G. g. beringei*) form a phylogenetic cluster distinct from the western lowland gorillas (*G. g. gorilla*). Western lowland gorillas exhibit intra-subspecific variability (4-16% changes) nearly as high as the western versus eastern gorilla sequence divergence (13-20% changes). Sequence divergence between eastern lowland and mountain gorillas averages 7-8%, and both these subspecies exhibit low levels of intra-subspecific variability (0.3-1%). Mountain gorillas are found in two isolated populations of about 300 individuals each. The subspecies classification of the Ugandan impenetrable Forest population has been debated. However, the impenetrable Forest and Virunga Volcanoes mountain gorilla populations cannot be distinguished by sequence typing using this DNA region.

0741

CONGENITAL MALFORMATION IN A FEMALE GORILLA OF RIO MUNI.

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During a long-term study on the status and distribution of the apes of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, we have found a case of congenital malformation in a female gorilla *(Gorilla gorilla gorilla)* found in the region of Rio Muni. This female presents lack of nails and distal phalanxes of the second digits of both feet. It is the first time that this kind of malformation has been described. Bilateral malformations similar to this one have already been observed before in Rio Muni. We review similar cases observed in the family Pongidae. It is suggested that these

ABSTRACTS

XIV^th CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRIMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY

XIV^e CONGRES DE LA SOCIETE INTERNATIONALE DE PRIMATOLOGIE

PALAIS DES CONGRES

AUGUST 2 - 7 1992 STRASBOURG/FRANCE