

**Anthropology Lab
Field Trip Report of
the San Francisco Zoo**

Gabor Por

May 05, 2003

ANTHRO1L

Section #: 27312

Thursday 2.30-5.30

**An extended version of this report
is online with over 40 pictures at:
<http://pgabor.com/p/s/a/>**

PRIMATE DATA FORMS

Common Name: **Black Lemur**

Scientific Name: Eulemur macaco

Fascinating Facts: They greet each other with grooming each other

Physical Characteristics: Males are black while females are brownish grey with a grey face framed by spiky white tufts of hair. They are about 38 inches long and weigh about five pounds.

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live in the rainforests of western Madagascar, mostly on the trees.

Diet: Mostly fruit, leaves and bark but some meat as well.

Social Behavior: They live, eat, travel, care for/play with the young and vocalize together in groups of 7-15. They are polygamous. Usually they give birth to a single baby, but sometimes to twins. The baby is around the mother for about 135 days, out of which the first week it is clinging to the underside of the mother but later it rides on her back. Males mature sexually by 900 days, females at 550 days.

Status in the Wild: Endangered

Common Name: **Ring-tailed Lemur**

Scientific Name: Lemur catta

Fascinating Facts: They “worship the sun” in a sitting position, arms stretched out, heads back.

Physical Characteristics: They weigh between 6 1/2 to 7 3/4 pounds. Their head and body length is 10 to 12 inches, and their tail is 14 to 16 inches. Their fox-like face has prominent ears. Their tail is ringed in black and white with a black tip.

Geographical Range and Habitat: Like most lemurs they live in Madagascar. They prefer the brush and scrub forests, closed canopy deciduous forests.

Diet: In the wild they eat fruit, leaves, flowers, bark and sap but in the zoo they are fed fruit, vegetables, yams and leafy greens.

Social Behavior: They live in groups consisting of 3-24 individuals of both sexes. Female is the dominant sex. Males move between troops, females do not. Territorial encounters tend to consist of opposing groups of females running at each other and uttering a threatening call until one group retreats.

Status in the Wild: Endangered despite that there is 10,000 to 100,000 of them living in the wild.

Common Name: **Chimpanzee**

Scientific Name: Pan troglodytes

Fascinating Facts: They create and use “sponges” made from leaves to get water out of tree-boles and crevices. They like their own vocalization and can be heard playing with sounds often.

Physical Characteristics: Males and females weigh from 126-176 pounds, 100-150 pounds respectively. They get around with a four-footed walk with the backs of the fingers placed on the ground, the hind legs slightly flexed, and the body tipped forward and

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live in the rainforests of West and Central Africa.

Diet: They mostly eat fruit, leaves, seeds, bark, honey, insects and eggs, but occasionally hunt for meat. In the Zoo they mostly get fruits and vegetables.

Social Behavior: They live in groups of 40 to 80 animals. But the whole community is rarely in one place. They sleep in tree nest. Mother/child bonds are very strong.

Status in the Wild: They are endangered since 1990

Common Name: **Orangutan**

Scientific Name: Pongo pygmaeus

Fascinating Facts: To keep themselves drier they make canopies during tropical showers. Also they sleep in the trees as high as 70 feet off the ground.

Physical Characteristics: Males weight almost twice as much as females. Their arms are longer than their legs. Their hands and arms are powerful, but their legs are relatively weak. They have long, red hair.

Geographical Range and Habitat: The tropical forests of Borneo and Sumatra.

Diet: 60% of their diet is fruit but they also eat young leaves and shoots, insects.... In the Zoo beside fruits and vegetable they get cottage cheese, bread, and vitamins too.

Social Behavior: Males and females usually avoid each other, they meet only to mate. The important social unit is the mother-offspring one. The infants are breast fed for 18 months. The mother not only cuddles and nurses her baby, but also keeps it clean, cleaning its fur with her teeth and shortening its fingernails.

Status in the Wild: Endangered

Common Name: **Siamang**

Scientific Name: Hylobates syndactylus

Fascinating Facts: Siamangs can move so fast through the trees that for the human eye they seem to be flying. They can leap as much as 50 feet although that figure is for downward direction.

Physical Characteristics: They weigh between 17 and 28 pounds. Their arms are longer than their legs which is useful for their "brachiating".

Geographical Range and Habitat: The top of forest canopies of Sumatra and Malaysia.

Diet: They like fruits, including figs, buds, foliage, flowers, but being omnivores they also eat insects, spiders, small lizards, birds and bird eggs.

Social Behavior: A group is a family consisting of a male, a female, and their youngs, that may go up to four. The family will drive off strangers. The most important social behavior for them is grooming.

Status in the Wild: Endangered.

Common Name: **Black Howler monkey**

Scientific Name: Alouatta caraya

Fascinating Facts: Howlers are among the largest of the New World monkeys. They spend up to 80% of their time resting.

Physical Characteristics: The males weigh 15 - 20 pounds, the females about 12 pounds thus they are about 75% smaller than males. Males are all black, while females are yellow-brown or olive buff. They have a strong prehensile tail.

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live in the tall streamside forests of South American countries like Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil

Diet: Being herbivores they eat leaves, fruits, and other vegetable.

Social Behavior: Their groups number 3 to 19 monkeys, and include 1 - 3 adult males and 2 - 7 adult females. One of the adult males, usually the biggest, is always clearly dominant.

Status in the Wild: Population is not known for the countries listed. They were massively hunted down.

Common Name: **Mandrill**

Scientific Name: Mandrillus sphinx

Fascinating Facts: Males are constantly on the alert for predators. When he works himself into a frenzy bright red spots will appear on his wrists and ankles and his chest will turn a vivid blue.

Physical Characteristics: Male mandrills can be twice as big as the females, weighing from 44 to 62 lbs., as opposed to 25 pounds of the other sex. Males have a blue to purple naked rump, their muzzle is large, and the nose is bright red with blue.

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live in Benin and Togo in Africa, staying at the high moist forests and low levels of trees and forest floor.

Diet: They eat a lot of things including: fruits, roots, leaves, plants, seeds, snails, worms, invertebrates, insects, tubers and greens. Furthermore they may get from farmers the fruit of the oil palm and manioc.

Social Behavior: Their social organization is harems, small groups (up to 14 in number) with one adult male, several adult females and their young. During the dry season, several harems may join to form larger troops of up to 200 members.

Status in the Wild: They are highly endangered.

Common Name: **Patas monkey**

Scientific Name: Erythrocebus patas

Fascinating Facts: They spend most of their time on the ground. Their alternate names include: red monkey, military monkey, Sergeant-Major monkey, dancing monkey and Hussar monkey. (Hussars were Hungarian Soldiers in the 19th century with bright red uniform.)

Physical Characteristics: They are large, tall, but slender. They have a light band on the forehead and a dark dorsal stripe. The eyes and nostrils are very close together.

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live in the open grassy woodlands of central Africa, often miles from water.

Diet: They eat grubs and other ground insects, small reptiles, fruits, leaves, roots and even young birds and birds' eggs. True omnivores.

Social Behavior: They also live in harems, consisting of one adult male, several females and their young. They are mostly quiet monkeys. They show annoyance by merely yawning.

Status in the Wild: Threatened.

Common Name: **Diana Monkey**

Scientific Name: Cercopithecus diana

Fascinating Facts: They got their name from distinctive white stripe across the thigh that reminded some of a bow: “Diana” was the Roman huntress goddess. They can pack their cheek pouches with as much food as a stomach can hold.

Physical Characteristics: Males weigh up to 11 pounds and have a forward curving back. Their tail, app. 18 to 23 inches in length, is often carried recurved and upward with the tip turned back.

Geographical Range and Habitat: They live at the upper levels of the coastal rain forests.

Diet: They consume fruits, flowers, young leaves and invertebrates.

Social Behavior: They live in small groups, but the group size may reach 30. They rest during the noon hours, and then they move along calmly. They feed and groom at the middle to the high canopy range.

Status in the Wild: Vulnerable and endangered.

Common Name: **François’ Langur**

Scientific Name: Presbytis francoisi

Fascinating Facts: They have great acrobatic skills. This species was “discovered” by and named after M. François, who observed them on rocky shores of China.

Physical Characteristics: They are small, weigh only about 13 pounds. They have slender body and a long (three feet), thin tail. They are solid black except for the white band that occurs from the mouth to the ears. Their head has a pointed coronal crest.

Geographical Range and Habitat: Often they can be found in the rocky areas of Southeast Asia from southeastern China to central Laos and Vietnam. They are both arboreal and terrestrial.

Diet: Being leaf eaters they mostly eat leaves. They also eat fruits, flowers and cultivated crops.

Social Behavior: They live in small family groups consisting of one adult male, a few adult females, and offspring. The female and her new infant are the center of attention and all females take an active interest in the care of the infant.

Status in the Wild: Endangered

TAXONOMIES

Aye-Aye

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Daubentoniidae
GENUS: Daubentonia
SPECIES: Daubentonia madagascariensis

Black Howler monkey

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cebidae
GENUS: Alouatta
SPECIES: Alouatta caraya

Black lemur

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Lemuridae
GENUS: Petterus
SPECIES: Petterus macaco

Black and White Ruffed Lemur

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Lemuridae
GENUS: Varecia
SPECIES: Varecia variegata variegata

Chimpanzee

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Pongidae
GENUS: Pan
SPECIES: Pan troglodytes

Diana Monkey

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cercopithecidae
SUBFAMILY: cercopithecinae
GENUS: Cercopithecus
SPECIES: Cercopithecus diana

François' Langur

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cercopithecidae
SUBFAMILY: colobinae
GENUS: Prebytis
SPECIES: Prebytis francoisi

Human

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Pongidae
GENUS: Homo
SPECIES: Homo sapiens

Lion-tailed Macaque

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cercopithecidae
SUBFAMILY: cercopithecinae
GENUS: Macaca
SPECIES: Macaca silenus

Mandrill

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cercopithecidae
SUBFAMILY: cercopithecinae
GENUS: Mandrillus
SPECIES: Mandrillus sphinx

Orangutan

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Pongidae
GENUS: Pongo
SPECIES: Pongo pygmaeus

Patas monkey

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Cercopithecidae
SUBFAMILY: cercopithecinae
GENUS: Erythrocebus
SPECIES: Erythrocebus patas

Red Ruffed Lemur

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Lemuridae
GENUS: Varecia
SPECIES: Varecia variegata rubra

Ring-tailed lemur

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Lemuridae
GENUS: Lemur
SPECIES: Lemur catta

Siamang

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Hylobatiade
GENUS: Hylobates
SPECIES: Hylobates syndactylus

White-Fronted Lemur or Brown Lemu

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Lemuridae
GENUS: Petterus
SPECIES: Petterus fulvus

Western Lowland Gorilla

KINGDOM: Animalia
PHYLUM: Chordata
CLASS: Mammalia
ORDER: Primates
FAMILY: Pongidae
GENUS: Gorilla
SPECIES: Gorilla gorilla

GORILLA GORILLA GORILLA OBSERVATIONS

- 1) **Date and time of observation:** April 18, 2003, from noon till 1 PM
- 2) **Weather conditions:** Mostly sunny, occasional patches of clouds, temperature in the mid 70s
- 3) **Common name of primate: Western Lowland Gorilla**
- 4) **Scientific name of species :** Gorilla gorilla gorilla
- 5) **Brief description of zoo habitat:** Almost totally flat area covered with grass, with 4-5 trees connected with rubber ropes, two sets of rock formations, adjoining building for winter months. Habitat area is separated from visitors with 10-15 feet high walls (from which we can look down onto them) and at one spot with strong glass that is on the same level as the gorillas are
- 6) **Brief description of natural habitat:** Tropical rain forests from sea level to about 6,000 feet, and are limited to small areas in Zaire, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, and the Central African Republic
- 7) **Census of group by sex and age category in zoo habitat:** 3 males and 4 females:
 - ? **Mkubwa**, male, born in 1975 in the San Francisco Zoo, father of Shango, Barney, Nneka
 - ? **Bawang**, female, born in 1980 in the Cincinnati Zoo, arrived to the San Francisco Zoo in 1981, mother of Shango, Barney, Nneka
 - ? **Shango**, male, born in 1989 in the San Francisco Zoo, as young teenager male he was separated and moved to a "bachelor pad", not in the visible habitat
 - ? **Barney**, male, born in 1993 in the San Francisco Zoo
 - ? **Nneka**, female, born in 1998 in the San Francisco Zoo
 - ? **Pogo**, female born in 1958 in the wild in the French Camerons
 - ? **Zura**, female, born in 1981 in the Columbus Zoo, arrived to San Francisco Zoo in 1981
- 8) **Census of group by sex and age category in natural habitat:** They live in groups of five to 30 animals, with an average group size of about 11. The silverback is the leader of the group. The group may have several "blackback" males, and twice as many females as males.

LIST OF EVENTS

- ? **12:08:** Nneka approaches the Mkubwa who appears to be sleeping on his back under the tree in the shade, stops, waits 20 seconds and then retreats
- ? **12:10:** Nneka is playing, with putting hay on her head, half in the shade next to the other one; she turns around and around looking for comfortable position ends up on her back, with crossed arms
- ? **12:18:** Zura goes around the habitat, climbs to top of rock
- ? **12:20:** Bawang lies under the edge of the rock; Zura plays on its topside, then stares at Mkubwa; Nneka collects grass and eats it, then slowly approaches Mkubwa, then sits down 2 feet in front of him facing him
- ? **12:22:** Barney wakes up, moves around, throws rubber bowl at Zura, Zura backs out
- ? **12:30:** Nneka collects twigs, peels them with her mouth
- ? **12:30:** Bawang kneels onto rubber bowl right under me
- ? **12:33:** Nneka self grooms her leg
- ? **12:34:** Pogo approaches visitors' vista
- ? **12:37:** Pogo stands on ball at glass, imitates visitors; Nneka walks to tree and stare up, waits 2 minutes and climbs up, hangs a bit
- ? **12:40:** Pogo comes away from window and stands in the shade, takes leaf out of tree's protecting wire and chews on it; Mkubwa still lies on his stomach
- ? **12:41:** Zura climbs onto trunk with chewy bark and continuous eating it on top
- ? **12:42:** Zura climbs down, grabs grass and chews some more
- ? **12:50:** Nneka moves to shade pulls rug around
- ? **12:51:** Nneka breaks branch off the tree but doesn't let it drop, plays with it
- ? **12:55:** Barney away makes bed of hay in the sun
- ? **12:56:** Nneka plays on rope, climbs to the other tree; Bawang approaches; Nneka jumps onto the rope; Bawang grabs the branch Nneka dropped and pulls away to a trunk
- ? **1:02:** Mkubwa gets up, puts hay in bowl, and sits on it; grooms himself
- ? **1:04:** Barney gets up, goes to the door at the building as if she'd want to in and sits down
- ? **1:07:** Nneka goes to the door too.

ANALYSIS

I was hoping to see some interactions among the gorillas, but during the hour I spent there were very few occasions when they communicated with each other in any manner. In general I can say that Nneka, the youngest (female) gorilla was the most active. She had energy to go around and around try to play, climb the rocks and the trees and so on. The others were resting most of the time at the relatively warm noon hour when I was there.

Considering that I haven't seen much action I don't have much to analyze. What I am particularly upset about is that I did not have a chance to see the famous chest-beating. I learned that this behavior is done by all gorillas and the either one or two open-fist hands are clapped against the chest. For the adult male this is a threat display.

I did see Nneka staring at Mkubwa, but I don't think that it was an aggressive stare, more like a curious, exploratory one. According to one source I read when the sender has its eyes fixed on the receiver, the eyebrows are lowered, the head is angled down, and the lips are parted and pursed then this communicates aggression or annoyance. However I find it unlikely that I have witnessed this.

Pogo came to the visitor's window, where people were looking at him from the same level. At this point I was at the other corner of the area so I didn't see his face. Others have told me though that often the gorilla would imitate the humans. Visitors might think he is doing human like movements and would attribute this behavior to his human like qualities. What is more likely though that because of his intelligence he is capable and interested in imitation, but if it is a senseless human behavior he is mimicking then there is no significant meaning behind it.

Because there was no real conflict in that hour among them I didn't see fear of display (open-mouth grimace: the mouth is wide open, the corners of the mouth are drawn back, the eyebrows are raised, the head is tilted back a little, and the eyes move back-and-forth), or light

distress (pout face: the lips are pursed, mouth is slightly parted or compressed, and the eyebrows are raised), or play face (the mouth is open but not showing the teeth or gums), or threat display for potential predators (tense-mouth face: like staring but the gums and teeth are displayed having the lips curled back), or even dominance display (strutting walk: a rigid walk with arms bowed and the hair bristled so that the individual looks bigger.) Overall they seemed a pretty mellow group.

Right before I left the area Barney and Nneka got closer to the building one after the other and settled down its door. I could interpret this in two ways. Either they were getting ready for meal or that's where they were expecting it to arrive for them. Or they were missing Shango, their brother, who according to a sign was in a separate "bachelor pad". I can assume that this pad was somewhere in the building and his siblings knew about it.

All in all I had an enjoyable hour there, I am just sorry that not enough action happened for me to analyze.



ADMISSION

ADULT 10.00



10101001051266

ISSUE DATE: 04/18/2003 TRANSACTION: 22209 SELLER: 5623



03041811390112222



PARKING

4.00

SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

PLEASE SCAN

AT

EXIT GATE

04/18/2003

TRANSACTION: 22209

SELLER: 5623

03041811390112222



SAN FRANCISCO ZOO

415-753-7080

QTY	ITEM	AMOUNT
1	AD GEN ADMISS	10.00
1	PARKING	4.00

SUBTOTAL	14.00
TAX	0.00
TOTAL	14.00
CASH	20.00
CHANGE	6.00

11:39 AM 04/18/2003 001:022209 562

NOT VALID
FOR ADMISSION