

Social organization of Monkeys

Monkeys are highly social organisms. Well developed societies are seen in different monkey species. Most of them live in pairs or in groups. There are two factors which affect the social organization of monkeys. These are resource distribution and predator pressure.

There are 4 types of societies among monkey species.

1. Solitary

2. Monogamous adult pairs with recent offsprings (Nuclear family)

3. Single male with bonded females and offsprings

4. Many males with many females and offsprings.

5. Diffused social parties.

① Solitary — these primates are forest dwellers, smaller in size and arboreal. Males are found solitary but they

can be seen as:

- (a) Male and female
- (b) male and female with infants
- (c) female with infants
- (d) 1-2 subadults.

their antipredatory device is concealment. Sexual partners only meet for reproduction. They inhabit thick forest and remain hidden in foliage.

example — Microbatas, galago
slow ~~loris~~ loris, slender loris etc.

2) Monogamous adults (Nuclear family)

They are inhabitants of tropical rain forest. Their groups include 4-8 individuals consisting of an adult male and adult female and upto 4 young one. Male-female bonding is permanent and last life long. It is true for gibbons, marmosets and muntjac. Partners who disappear are soon replaced. In such groups usually there is not much difference in the body size of male and female. They have equal dominance. Both of them involve in all activities with same intensity. All monogamous groups have definite territory which is defended actively. Both partners sing songs. Duetting is sympatric of monogamy. Some have scent marks for their territory whereas gibbons give hoot calls from their territories. Usually monogamous primates are smaller in size. They feed on high protein diet viz, insects, new larvae and ripe fruits. Females feed their young and the father is the primary caretaker of the offspring. Antipredatory device is concealment. Example - Indri, mentawai, marmoset gibbon etc.

2) Single male with 0
Their group include 20-100 individuals. There will be one adult, fully grown, just dominant male, big sized as 'overlord', popularly known as 'resident male' or 'resident male' formed by adult females, male-female infants. Growing juveniles and leave the group or chased away to form all male groups. Adult male is the leader and co-ordinator of the group's activity, like where to go, when to feed, where to sleep etc. He make loud, resonating calls, which is necessary for quiet and effective gathering of a group. Chasing of overlord is a common occurrence. Sometimes a stronger male of all male group may chase the resident male and take possession of harem and it is called "takeover".

Example — Erythrocebus patas,
hanuman langur, red howler
monkey, red tail monkey,
blue monkey etc.

4) Many males 0 —

Typically there are 3-8 adult males in a group, each of which has 5-7 bonded females and remain with their infants, and remain many small units, it is actually thus forming a big group, one such group can have upto 180 or even more individuals. They are mainly terrestrial groups. In a typical group of Gorillas, 20 individuals, the oldest and largest male, developing gray hair on his back and is called "Silverback". He is the most dominant member and rest of the males would be lower in status. There is no conflict for mating. These groups have also been called as "age graded" which means that there is only one oldest male, all males are younger and are graded age-wise. Example:— Rhesus, Gorilla, baboon, spider monkey, woolly monkey, squirrel monkey etc.

5) Diffused social parties 0 —

Their social structure is more variable than other primates. They follow no strict social organization. They may be seen in bands of males, groups of females, with or without infants. They may also be seen wandering alone.