

MEAT AND FRUIT SHARING IN WILD PYGMY CHIMPANZEES (*PAN PANISCUS*).

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Food sharing and transfer are important aspects of primate social organization and feeding competition. Shareability of a food item is dependent on value of the resource, economics of defensibility, and relationships among individuals. Food sharing versus transfer by nonprovisioned *Pan paniscus* at the Lomako Forest Pygmy Chimpanzee Project study site was examined for items of differing size and quality. Begging by adults was more frequent and sharing was less frequent in meat versus fruit sharing. Mothers frequently shared medium to large fruits with infants and juveniles but frequently shared meat. Only large fruits were shared among adult females, between adult females and adult males, but not among adult males. Transfer (by site displacement but not transfer of items) occurred among adult females according to dominance rank. Male-male displacement during feeding was related to access to adult females. Fruits are larger at the Lomako site than at comparable *Pan troglodytes* sites. Differences in large fruit abundance, but not prey abundance, between study sites may influence differences in chimpanzee social organization allowing more female-female associations in *Pan paniscus*. Prey defense is cost effective in *Pan paniscus* as male-male coalitions are rare. Meat-sharing in *Pan paniscus* is associated with male-female relationships.