

SOCIAL ORGANIZATION, SOCIAL COHESION AND GROUP SIZE OF WILD AND CAPTIVE BLACK AND WHITE RUFFED LEMUR. F. WHITE, A. BURTON, S. BUCHHOLZ AND K. GLANDER, DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY AND ANATOMY, DUKE UNIVERSITY, DURHAM, NC 27706.

A three month study of wild black and white ruffed lemurs, Varecia variegata variegata, was conducted between June and August 1988 in southeastern Madagascar. A semi-free ranging captive group has been observed since 1985 at the Duke University Primate Center. The wild study group consisted of an adult male and an adult female. The pair maintained a large territory (197 ha), and frequently ranged more than 1 km each day. The captive group consisted of an adult pair and their offspring and occupy an area of 3.5 hectares of forest. One adult daughter mated in the group, but did not successfully raise offspring. Group members show variable cohesion that increases during the breeding season. Under natural conditions, Varecia is monogamous. In captivity, offspring are unable to disperse and remain with their natal group longer. In Madagascar, Varecia groups on small islands and in isolated forest blocks have small home ranges and large group sizes, possibly as a consequence of limited dispersal.

Funding provided by a grant from the Douroucouli Foundation.