

Diet, ranging behavior and social organization of the black and white ruffed lemur, Varecia vareigata vareigata, in southeastern Madagascar. F.J. WHITE, Duke University, Durham, NC 27706.

A three month study of wild black and white ruffed lemur, Varecia vareigata vareigata, was conducted between June and August 1988 in the rain forest near Ranomafana in southeastern Madagascar. Varecia supplemented its frugivorous diet with small amounts of nectar and leaves. The study animals fed, traveled, and rested mostly high in the canopy (20 to 25 m), although they occasionally came to the ground to eat soil. Locomotion was principally quadrupedal, and included frequent leaping. Suspensory feeding postures were common. The study group consisted of an adult male and an adult female. Only one subadult was observed, which exchanged calls with, but did not associate with, the cohesive pair. The pair maintained a very large territory (197 ha), and frequently ranged more than 1 km each day. The male and female used chorusing loud calls for territorial behavior at the boundaries and for coordination of movement within the territory.

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