

The Yellow Mile: Patterns of space- and resource-use by Yellow Baboons in a Ugalla, Western Tanzania

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Patterns of space- and resource-use by primate troops are crucial to species ecology, directly influencing social structure, mating systems and life-histories. Baboons (*Papio* spp.) are well-studied from this perspective with data from long-term field sites across Africa allowing comparisons across different ecological gradients. Under-represented in this sample are woodland/forest populations, who, unlike their savannah conspecifics, typically share their environment with numerous other primate species. In this talk, I will present data on patterns of space- and resource-use by two troops of semi-habituated yellow baboons' (*Papio cynocephalus*) found in the remote Issa region of Ugalla in western Tanzania (Camp Troop [CT], n=22; Matawi Troop [MT], n=31). Ugalla is a highly seasonal environment that is characterised by high altitude and rainfall, and which is home to numerous other (well-studied) primates, including *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii* and *Cercopithecus ascanius*. Using troop movement data (GPS: CT = 349hrs and MT = 197hrs) and phenological data (transects: 2km long x10m wide, totaling 600 trees) collected over 7 months (2011-12), I will describe how troop day path lengths and home ranges alter (1) across seasons and (2) in accordance with local fruit abundance. Next, I examine the potential for competitive displacement of chimpanzees by baboons, that has already been hypothesized at other forest study sites in Tanzania. Overall, this study provides much needed data for non-savannah baboons, and at Ugalla, one of the driest, most marginal habitats inhabited by chimpanzees, any competition may add to an already stressful environment for these critically endangered primates.