Downloaded from UvA-DARE, the institutional repository of the University of Amsterdam (UvA) http://dare.uva.nl/document/191734

File ID 191734

Filename Acknowledgements

SOURCE (OR PART OF THE FOLLOWING SOURCE):

Type Dissertation

Title A chimpanzee Mega-Culture? Exploring behavioral continuity in Pan troglodytes

schweinfurthii across northern DR Congo

Author T.C. Hicks

Faculty Faculty of Science

Year 2010 Pages 300

ISBN 978-90-76894-92-8

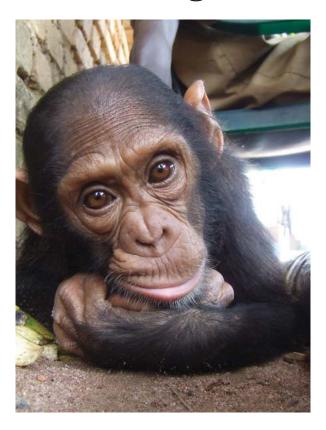
FULL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DETAILS:

http://dare.uva.nl/record/359327

Copyright

It is not permitted to download or to forward/distribute the text or part of it without the consent of the author(s) and/or copyright holder(s), other then for strictly personal, individual use.

Acknowledgements



This 5-year research project would have been impossible to complete without the support and collaboration of a number of experts from conservation and research, representing multiple countries and continents. Conservationist Karl Ammann first flew with me into Bili and introduced me to the perplexing behavior of the local chimpanzees. Hans Wasmoeth of The Wasmoeth Wildlife Foundation was a crucial supporter throughout the duration of the project. Even when times got tough at Bili, Hans' logistic and moral support never wavered. I was also lucky enough to have the staff and collaborators of his foundation working around the clock on my behalf: Sunny Kortz provided real-time internet assistance whenever things went haywire; Itzard Schouten and colleagues assembled my writings, films and photographs into state-of-the-art e-books.

I thank the Ministre de l'Environnement of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Anselme Enerunga, and the Secretary General of Scientific Research of the Ministry of Education, Nsiala Miaka Makengo, for granting us permission to work in their country. I thank as well Chief Zelesi Yakisi for inviting us to set up a field site in his collectivity.

My promoters and advisors at the University of Amsterdam (Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics) encouraged me to pursue my ideas about the behavior of the Bili chimpanzees in a stimulating multi-disciplinary intellectual environment, which was enriched with input from diverse fields ranging from evolutionary biology to landscape ecology. When it came time to construct the maps, I was turned loose to play in the wonderful GIS lab, where, with Guido van Reenen and Sipko Hensen as my guides, I observed a number of fascinating patterns emerge. I owe thanks as well to Hans Breeuwer, Jan Sevink, Joost Duivenvoort, Peter van Tienderen, Betsie Voetdijk, and Anna Kuchta. I am particularly grateful to Peter Roessingh, the wily programmer and R evangelist who stayed up late into the night on more than one occasion wrestling my unruly data-set into R and finally taming it. My head supervisor and promoter Steph Menken never wavered in his support for me, even at

times when the research took wild turns, i.e., when we lost our study site at Bili to the gold miners and I embarked on new peregrinations south of the Uele River. Although of course much of science is and should be hypothesis-driven, Steph shared my belief that there should still be a place in science for good 'old-fashioned' exploration, as long as it is conducted in a systematic manner. I am grateful for his patience, good-humor, and firm guidance away from anecdote and into analysis. I was also lucky to benefit from crucial suggestions on the manuscript given by Jan van Hooff and Carel van Schaik. Professor van Schaik's suggestion to carry out a cluster analysis in Chapter 5 provided solid empirical support for my hypothesis of behavioral continuity across the population of northern DRC chimpanzees.

Boris Jansen helped to handle press releases, allowing us to share our discoveries with the non-academic world. Jan van Arkel polished my figures into clarity, and came up with a beautiful design for the cover. Jan Bruin's formatting wizardry brought the thesis together into an organized whole and thankfully cut its length in half! Betty Bijl, Maria Dolorita, Mary Parra, Frank Hammecher, Jody dos Santos, Mijke Heldens, Saskia Heijboer, and Tanya Noorlander handled the administrative and technical aspects of my stay in Amsterdam.

Towards the end of the writing-up process, this thesis benefited enormously from a 6-month invitation to the Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. There my ideas were challenged in the most productive way possible by Christophe Boesch and the formidable team of African ape specialists assembled there. Particularly helpful feedback came from Hjalmar Kühl, Sandra Tranquilli, Lydia Luncz, Livia Wittiger, Tobias Deschner, Kevin Langergraber, Claudio Tennie, Geneviève Campbell, Mimi Arandjelovic, Andrew Fowler, Martha Robbins, Gottfried Hohmann, and Ammie Kalan. Roger Mundry contributed some ingenious solutions to statistical dilemmas. Thanks are also due to Claudia Nebel, Christina Kompo, Silvia Wenzel, Sebastian Geidel, Jan Zacharias, and Andreas Walther for administrative and technical assistance. I am excited to see that the Max Planck team is working to wed conservation strategy to rigorous scientific analysis, a necessary endeavor if we are to develop rational responses to seemingly intractable conservation problems.

John and Terese Hart were an invaluable source of advice for dealing with the at times bewildering political hierarchy in the DRC, which they have successfully navigated for years in their fight to save the wilderness. From the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature, Director Pasteur Cosma Wilungula Balongelwa, Provincial Director Honoré Malingane, and Technical Director Benoit Kisuke helped me to present the case for protecting Bili-Uele to the highest echelons of the Congolese leadership.

Kathelijne Koops, Jill Pruetz, Jojo Head, Craig Stanford, Jane Goodall, Richard Wrangham, Jan van Hooff, Liz Williamson, Andy Plumptre, Ian Redmond, Stuart Nixon, Vincent Nijman, David Morgan, and Crickette Sanz provided useful feedback and ideas, as did a number of other researchers who are cited in Chapter 5. As mentioned in Chapter 5, the late Adriaan Kortlandt provided me with evidence crucial for the formulation of my 'behavioral continuity' hypothesis. Thanks also to Jef Dupain for making the initial contacts which led to me working at Bili.

Laura Darby, Adam Singh, and Jeroen Swinkels each took a big chance coming to work with me in the DRC, and they added enormously to the research. Jeroen managed to compile a herbarium which enabled us to identify the plant species used by the chimpanzees; he also added hundreds of km of recce walks to our survey effort. Laura and Adam, after months of ably running the Bonganzulu Refuge, managed to evacuate the 'Aketi Five' chimpanzee orphans under conditions resembling the final scene of an Indiana Jones film! Local field assistants Kisangola Polycarpe, Olivier Esokeli, and Sebastian (Seba) Koya stuck by my side through the most challenging times of our final two field seasons. The risks they took for the project and the loyalty they showed will not be forgotten.

The Lucie Burgers Foundation provided us with the financial support we needed to carry out our chimpanzee surveys. The International Primate Protection League provided funding for the evacuation of the five chimpanzee orphans from Aketi, and the Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro for took them in. Joe Lincoln and Jon Cadd of Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) flew these orphans out of Aketi under difficult conditions. Ron Pontier and Dan Stears of Africa Inland Missions (AIM) flew us into Bili, and later Aketi. Wendy Atkins, also of AIM, provided us with a safe harbor in Zemio, CAR, along with much-needed logistical support. Thanks also to Leopold Kalala, Radar Nishuli, Debby Cox, Shirley McGreal, Carmen Vidal, Jill Shapiro, Carol Gould, Beth Taylor, Jason Mier, Michel Mokede, Victor Minesi, Susan Shaiu, Corneille Ewango, Carolyn Ehardt, Chief Mangay of Lebo, Chief Sende and his son of Leguga, Claude Ameki, Daniel Hermand, Roger and Debbi Fouts, Mary Lee Jensvold, and Claudine André for their help at various times in the project. Niko Fotopolos and his wife Madame Jani provided us with a secure base of operations at Bili. Madame Cecile Namasia, Madame Godin, and their family provided us with a safe and friendly refuge in the 'Wild West'-style mining town of Buta. We, of course, could not have done any of the research without our dedicated team of field assistants and sanctuary workers. In particular, I would like to thank Ligada Faustin (who took us on our first guided tour of the 'Magic Forest', Gangu), Chief Mbolibie of Baday, Dido Makeima, Jean-Marie Masumbuko, Benoit Imasanga, Papy Abonge, Damien Zanzu, Antoine Maumba, Emmanuel Tepupileka, Richard Lilua, Djodjo Lundula, Makassi, Likambo, Likongo, Garavura, and Kongonyesi.

Friends in Amsterdam and Leipzig helped keep my spirits up during cold winters. Amsterdam: Erik de Boer, Geert van der Plas, Zaire Gonzalez Carranza, Jesús Aguirre, Maria Pontes, Marian Cabrera, Noemi Nava, Ximena Urrutia, Carolina Tovar, Encarni Montoya, Jenny Urbina, Paola Reyes, Anna Maria Benavides, Folkert van Dunné, Anna Kuchta, Csilla Pakusza, Caspar Romkes, and Paula Caycedo (the Polder Crowd); and Diderick Visser, Iris Leinfelder, Daphne van Meningen, Roel Borst, and Cathy Hancock. Leipzig (in addition to those mentioned above): Carolyn Langergraber, Laura Muniz, Adrian Melnyk, Jojo Bhagavatula, Julia Reidel, Steffie Henkel, Terry Brncic, Vanessa van Doren, Daniela Hedwig, Marten Surbeck, Jessi Junker, Daphne Kerhoas, Alberto Acerbi, Yi-Chiao Chan, Tillman Fünfstück, Sergio Ramirez, Justin Roy, Heidi Douglas, Virginie Vergnes, Oliver Wagner, Ed Wright, Anahita Kazem, Karline Janmaat, Sebastian Regnaut, Yasmin Möbius, Grit Schubert, Oskar, Schumi, and Ursus.



Finally, I must thank my parents, Thurston and Kitty Hicks, for their enduring support and love. I have been very lucky to have parents who have encouraged my wanderlust from the start. My mother selflessly managed my logistics for all the years I was deep in the forest; without her help I would never have been able to complete this thesis. I am eternally grateful. My late grandmother Sue Garden Burwell helped to finance my first visit to the Congo Basin in 1999. Whenever I return to North Carolina, I am always lucky to be greeted with true Southern hospitality by Walker, Katherine, Susie, Jamie, Little Papa, Savannah, and Isaiah (and Titus and Millie, too).

The chimpanzee bushmeat orphans Kisanola, Kathé, Bima Bolungwa, Django Mayanga, Mangay and Aketi Kigoma brought home to me in a very personal way the plight of the wildlife of the DRC, and the enormity of what we are at risk of losing. The dignity and creativity with which these orphans lived their lives after having suffered such an unimaginable loss was astonishing. Considering the contribution that free-living chimpanzees have made to our understanding of ourselves and our own evolution, not to mention the ecology of African tropical forests, it would be remiss not to give them credit here as well.

Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my friend Pasteur Maurice Lilongo (1962-2007), a brave and hard-working Congolese man who lost his life fighting to bring a better future to his country. His unfailing good spirits in the face of the difficult realities he was up against in the DRC will always inspire me.



Pasteur Maurice Lilongo, lower right. Photograph courtesy of Jeroen Swinkels.