



Book Review

Primate Life Histories and Socioecology. Edited by *Peter M. Kappeler and Michael E. Pereira*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 2003, xxiii + 395 pp., \$30.00 (paperback).

Juvenile Primates. Life History, Development and Behavior, With a New Foreword. Edited by *Michael E. Pereira and Lynn A. Fairbanks*, University of Chicago Press, Chicago. 2002, xxiii + 428 pp., \$30.00 (paperback).

Primate Life Histories and Socioecology is an edited volume based on a conference on the same theme held in 1999. The goal of the conference was to integrate recent advances in primate life history research with socioecological models, which explain the evolution of primate social and mating systems in relation to ecological variables. Peter Kappeler and Michael Pereira did an outstanding job of editing the conference proceedings and integrating the contributions into a comprehensive and cohesive volume.

The Introduction by Kappeler, Pereira and van Schaik, and the Conclusion by Stearns, Pereira and Kappeler are among the best chapters in the volume. They place primate life history research into a broad comparative and evolutionary perspective, define the basic concepts and lay out the issues, integrate the information provided in the other chapters, and identify major avenues for future research. The rest of the book consists of 3 parts. Part One includes a chapter on the relation between primate life histories and phylogeny, a methodological chapter on the use of matrix models for primate life history analysis, and 3 chapters examining primate life histories in relation to different socioecological variables. Part Two is focused on somatic, reproductive, and behavioral development in relation to life histories, and Part 3 includes 3 chapters examining the relation between brain size and other life history traits across primate species.

All the contributors to this volume are leading scholars with active research programs, and the book offers a good balance of theory and data, and of new and old information. Some of the methodological difficulties

and controversies of primate life history research are apparent from the 3 chapters on brain evolution, which provide conflicting viewpoints and inconsistent empirical findings on the association between primate brain size, life history traits, and socioecological variables. One is left wondering why some primate life history researchers who use the same statistical software to analyze data obtained from the same body of literature often end up with very different results and interpretations. Another problematic issue of primate life history research is the tendency to test hypotheses with the same sets of data from which the hypotheses were generated. *Primate Life Histories and Socioecology* illustrates very well both the strengths and the weaknesses of this area of research. For anyone interested in primate life histories, this book is clearly the place to start and also the place to stay, probably for quite a long time.

In 2002, the University of Chicago Press published, in paperback, the second edition of *Juvenile Primates: Life History, Development and Behavior*. When the first edition of this book was published in 1993, it filled an important gap in the literature on primate behavior and ecology because juveniles, and more generally the study of development, had been neglected. Unfortunately, as noted by Michael Pereira in a chapter of *Primate Life Histories and Socioecology*, the trend in the last 10 years has grown worse. Development is still the Cinderella of behavioral biology, and primate research is no exception. Therefore, many of the interesting research questions raised by *Juvenile Primates* 10 years ago still remain unanswered.

The book has 33 contributors and 24 chapters organized into 5 parts. Part I examines the juvenile period in primates and other mammals from an evolutionary and life history perspective. Part II includes chapters on sex differences in spatial relationships, foraging strategies and patterns of dispersal of juvenile monkeys and apes. Parts III and IV focus on juvenile social behavior, with emphasis on the establishment of social relationships with relatives and alliance partners, play, dominance rank acquisition and conflict resolution. The 3 chapters in Part V are review papers that offer a sampling of childhood socioecology.

Many chapters in the first edition of *Juvenile Primates* presented new ideas and original data that had a big impact on the field. For example, Janson & van Schaik's chapter offering a new ecological hypothesis of primate delayed development has probably been cited hundreds of times in the past 10 years. Watts and Pusey's excellent chapter on the behavior of juvenile great apes is still the best source of information on this topic, and I have cited the chapter by Edwards on sex differences in interest in infants among children of diverse cultures many times in my own research.

The second edition of *Juvenile Primates* contains a new Foreword by Pereira and Fairbanks, who review the most important papers on primate

development published since the book's first edition and offer ideas and suggestions for future research.

Juvenile Primates was and still is an excellent and important book. Those who did not read it the first time cannot miss this chance to own an updated and improved edition for half the price.

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