

The Nat. His. of Aggr. Ed Carthy & Ebling
Aca. Press London 1964
Aggression in Monkey & Ape Societies.
K.R.L.Hall page 51

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The term "aggression" in its precise ~~mean~~
~~ing~~ sense refers to fighting and means the
act of initiating an attack (Scott, 1958).
However, as is clear from other contributions
to this Symposium, the kinds of behavior
shown by different species of animals in
trying to gain ascendancy over conspecifics
often fall far short of actual fighting, at
least in the natural environment, being
expressed in ritualized displays and threat
intention movements which are seemingly

effective in furthering the survival of the
species. In other words, aggressive behaviour
is usually, under the ecological conditions
of natural feeding, breeding, and defence,
adaptive.

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Relationships between baboon groups are
characterized by mutual tolerance or mutual
avoidance according to the nature of the
habitat. Where water needs have to be satis-
fied at a common source, as happens in South-
west Africa, Southern Rhodesia, and Kenya,
groups may even intermingle temporarily, then
divide up and go their separate ways into
their home ranges. Where, as in the Cape of
South Africa, or in Murchison Falls Park,
Uganda, the need for congregating does not
normally arise, groups very rarely meet,



Although they overlap into each other's home ranges, and even use the same sleeping cliffs on different nights, they keep apart from one another. No aggressive interactions between groups have ever been recorded by Hall & De Vore (in press) in over 2,000 hours of observation. ②

What has been said is not intended to imply that baboons are not potentially aggressive to one another. It is all too well known that, in the unnatural restriction of physical and social space of the usual captivity ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ conditions, lethal aggressiveness may occur. As a recent example of this, fighting

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broke out in a group of 17 baboons at the Bloemfontein Zoo when a "alien" adult male & ~~xxxxxx~~ adult female were introduced into their midst, as a result of which most of the animals were killed or died of their injuries (van Ee, personal communication). The point, of course, is that the natural regulation of numbers within a baboon population, and within the groups that it comprises, is usually achieved entirely by means short of actual fighting. Animals so socially conditionable as baboons have a highly articulated system of appropriate behaviour patterns towards each other, within groups and between groups, so ③

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that this tremendous aggressive potential is rarely manifested toward species members. ④

From the many years of study of the Japanese macaque groups, group interactions, characterized by tolerance or avoidance, appear to be very similar to those of baboons and of rhesus in habitat areas other than the urban and Temple. Changes in relative dominance as between adult males of a group usually proceed without fighting, and removal of an alpha male is likely to be followed by a take-over of status by the No. 2 male of the group. The idea that these males, or those in baboon and



rhesus groups, achieve their dominance by fighting for it seems mainly to have arisen from inaccurate observations. Threat displays amongst baboon msles, for example, may be exceeding noisy and vigorous, and give the casual observer the impression that a kind of dog fight is going on. (5)

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Within the ~~groups~~ groups not a single threat-attack by an adult male was observed in over 500 hours of observation. In contrast to the noisy barking and squealing baboons, the patas group is, to the human observer at 100 yards distance, almost completely silent throughout the day range. As we know from study of a laboratory group of the species (Hall, Boelkins and Goswell, in press), the patas have several distinctive vocalizations in their repertoire, but these are audible only at very short ranges. On not a single



occasion, again in striking contrast to baboons, has there been an audible vocalization from the large male or any other animal in the group when the observer has first encountered them or walked too close to them. No animal within these groups had any visible scar or injury. Again in marked contrast to baboons, females or young animals do not show any submissive postures or expressions if the large male passes near to them, nor do they tend to move out of his way. Our laboratory data suggest that adult females may play an important part in regulating the social relationships within the group, and the field data suggest that this large male's function

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is watchfulness for predators rather than exerting any aggressive dominance within the group.

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Anthropoid Apes. The study by Schaller (1963) of gorilla groups in a mountain habitat & by Goodall (in press) of a chimpanzee population in a savannah habitat provide important information as to the role of aggression in these primates.

From Goodall's data, it seems that the chimpanzee, in contrast to all the monkey species we have discusses, are loose organized in temporary groupings. In the whole of the very long study period, only 72 clear-cut



dominance interactions were observed in which one male gave way before another with respect to food or to place. Threat gestures, including vocalizations, were occasionally recorded. Nothing comparable to the between-group tensions sometimes observed in monkeys were recorded, adult males going peacefully from one grouping to another. Even during mating, tolerance between males was in evidence, as when several of them copulated in turn with the same oestrous female. As described by Hall and De Vore (in press), such a situation amongst baboons would almost certainly lead to great tension amongst the males, and, in most groups, the dominant male would have a

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temporary but exclusive consort relationship with an oestrous female, tending to keep away from the rest of the group, and thus avoiding interference.

