

habitats and conservation of the pygmy chimpanzee (*Pan paniscus*): An ecological perspective. *Primate Conservation* 16: 21–36.

Thompson-Handler, N., R.K. Malenky & G.E. Reinartz. 1995. (eds.) *Action Plan for Pan paniscus: Report on Free-ranging Populations and Proposals for their Preservation*. Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

CHIMPANZEE PAN TROGLODYTES NEST-MAKING BEHAVIOUR IN GUINEA AND UGANDA

Barnett *et al.* (1996) quote a report by Gippoliti & Dell’Omo (1996) stating that nesting by chimpanzees in the crowns of oil palms *Eleais guineensis* “has never before been observed in any chimpanzee population studied so far”. This is not so. Several cases of such nesting in western Guinea were observed by me in 1965 and by de Bournonville in 1966 (de Bournonville 1967, pp. 1197, 1201–1203, and 1257). These are documented in the photo archives of both observers (at my address). This behaviour was also observed in the Semliki forest, Uganda, Haddow (1958, p. 19), in Queen Elizabeth National Park, Uganda (Schaller pers.comm. in Goodall, 1968), and in Gombe Stream National Park (Goodall, 1968, pp. 194–95). There is a figure illustrating construction of palm tree nests by chimpanzees in Goodall (1968, p. 198.).

Nests in the crowns of palm trees apparently occur only in those sparsely wooded savannah areas where comfortable (*i.e.*, less prickly) sleeping opportunities in other tree species within reasonable distance seem to be rare or absent (my observation). They could be seen regularly, though locally, around the roads from Conakry to Boké, Kindia and Forecariah where mango groves, banana plantations and oil palms provided abundant food. Particularly worrying is that Barnett *et al.* report only one observation of nesting in palm trees in southern Guinea. Does this mean that the apes have almost disappeared along the main roads? We badly need regular wide ranging chimpanzee surveys such as those of de Bournonville. Hopefully Rebecca Ham’s forthcoming report will provide information.

Palm crowns used as beds should not be confused with palm crowns showing signs that, on an earlier occasion, the tips of budding leaves have been eaten by chimpanzees. Such palms can be distinguished because their half grown and fully grown leaves look as if their ends have been trimmed with a giant pair of scissors, and because they have not been folded inwards. Searching for such trees is the easiest and fastest way to determine whether chimpanzees occur in an area: the signs can even be seen while driving a car. However, the absence of such signs does not necessarily mean that the apes are absent.

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THE SANJE MANGABEY *CERCOCEBUS GALERITUS SANJEI*

Introduction

The existence of mangabeys in the Udzungwa Mountains of southern Tanzania was made known by Homewood and Rodgers (1981), who dubbed it the Sanje mangabey (after a waterfall in the Mwanihana Forest Reserve) and referred to it as a probable new subspecies of *Cercocebus galeritus*. They did not give it a scientific name, stating reasonably that “its status must remain in doubt until suitable type material becomes available”. They gave a description of its external features, based largely on observations of a captive juvenile male (now living at the Mount Meru Game Sanctuary), and reported on its distribution, ecology and conservation status.

Subsequent Bibliographic History

The Sanje mangabey naturally achieved a number of mentions in the conservation literature. Taxonomically, it was treated with great circumspection: Homewood and Rodgers had discovered it, and ethically they should have “first refusal” as far as naming was concerned. But when a new taxon remains unnamed for so long, accidents are bound to happen. Imperceptibly “Sanje mangabey” became *Cercocebus galeritus sanjei*, and all that remained was for some author inadvertently to make the name formally available in zoological nomenclature by associating it with a description or a bibliographic reference to one (Groves, 1996).

A scientific name, to be usable, has to be “Available”. This means that it has to have been published properly, including “accompanied by some indication purporting to define the taxon which it denotes, or a bibliographic

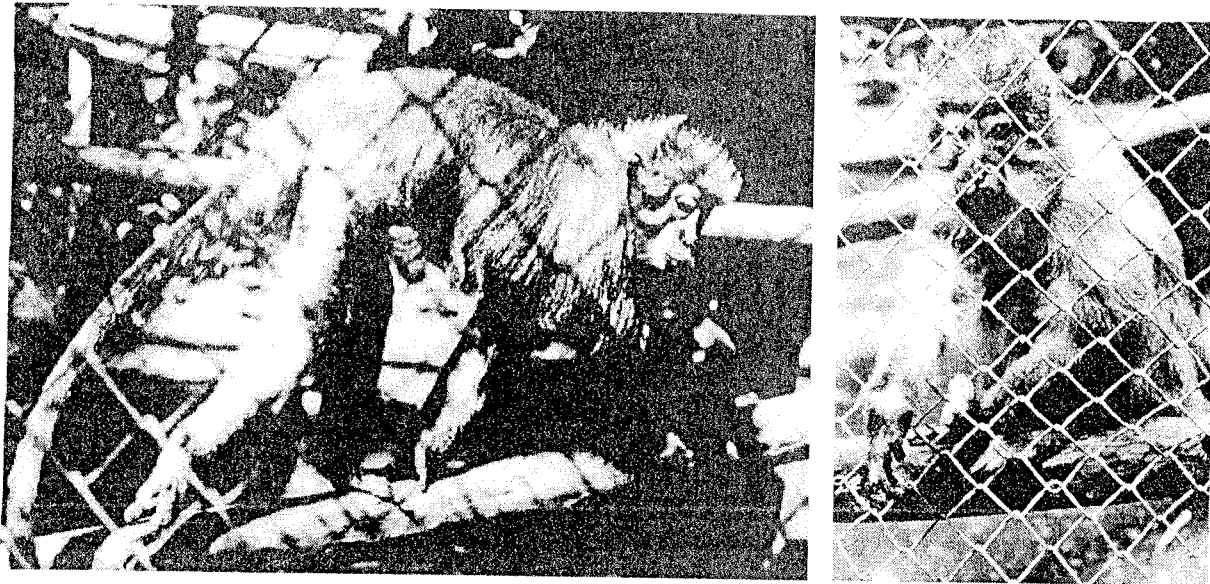


Figure 1. Captive Sanje mangabey *Cercocebus galeritus sanjei* at the Mount Meru Game Sanctuary, Arusha, Tanzania. Photos by Tom Butynski.

reference to such an indication" (Art. 13a, *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, 3rd ed., 1985). "Available" is not the same as "valid". A valid name is one that denotes a valid taxon (species, subspecies, or whatever). A name may be perfectly available—have been described in accordance with the *Code*—but, according to latest authority, not valid.

Mittermeier (1986) was one of the authors who used the name *Cercocebus galeritus sanjei*, but he appears to have been the first to use it in conjunction with a bibliographic reference to a description (to the only one thus far published, namely Homewood and Rodgers, 1981). So, quite unintentionally, he has made a scientific name for the Tanzanian mangabey available, and the

Table 1. Characters of the *Cercocebus galeritus* group (from Groves, 1978).

	<i>agilis</i>	<i>chrysogaster</i>	<i>galeritus</i>
Colour, dorsum	brown-olive; darker on median dorsal zone	more reddish	yellowish
Hair bands	two pairs/hair; heavier speckling on foreparts	three pairs/hair	one pair/hair
Nape speckling	as dorsum	as dorsum	absent
Limbs	as dorsum	as dorsum	greyish
Extremities	very dark brown	slightly blackened	dark grey-brown
Tail	banded at root only; dark above, light below	banded at root only	light grey, weakly banded
Colour, underside	very light fawn	red-gold	yellowish-white
Crown speckling	heavy	heavy	weakly expressed
Position of whorl	behind forehead (absent 5/68 skins)	usually absent in adult	immediately behind forehead
Form of whorl	radiating	-	parting
Hairs of whorl	short, upright behind, some pointing forward	-	very long, dark, flat on crown, none points forward
Colour of face	black	black	black
Colour of eyelids	only slightly lighter	only slightly lighter	only slightly lighter
Skull length (mm) male	127-137 (28)	129-134 (9)	122 (1)
Skull length (mm) female	102-120 (16)	105, 109 (2)	106, 107 (2)

author and date of the name *sanjei* is Mittermeier, 1986.

Status of the Sanjei Mangabey

Is *sanjei* a valid taxon and, if so, at what level—species or subspecies? Homewood and Rodgers (1981), still the only published description, make it clear that the Sanje mangabey belongs to the genus *Cercocebus* (not *Lophocebus*, which they did not then recognise as a separate genus, but which is now more widely accepted as distinct), and within that genus to the group of taxa including *galeritus*, *agilis* and *chrysogaster*. Groves (1978) argued that *Cercocebus agilis* (including *chrysogaster* as a subspecies) is a species restricted to Central Africa and is distinct from the Tana River mangabey, *Cercocebus galeritus galeritus*. The taxa of the *galeritus* group differ as per Table 1.

According to Homewood and Rodgers (1981), the Sanje mangabey is “smoky fawn brown” becoming creamy on the underside and dark brown on the extremities and upperside of the tail; this appears to resemble *agilis* more than other taxa. Individual hairs, however, have a single pair of bands, and in this it resembles *galeritus*. The whorl appears to resemble that of *agilis* in its position, in its heavy speckling, and in the disposition of the hairs radiating from it (see their Fig. 1), except that in lateral view the hairs are seen to be elongated, though less than in *galeritus* (p. 50). Quite different from any of the group is the pale facial skin; but the eyelids are white as in *galeritus*.

Evidently the relationship between *agilis*, *galeritus* and *sanjei* is a somewhat triangular one. Each of the three shows characteristic diagnostic features, and there is no doubt that under a Phylogenetic Species Concept each would rank as a full species. Given the purely hypothetical nature of any argument that “they might interbreed were their ranges to meet”, full species status for each of the three would seem to be the most satisfactory solution. Whether *chrysogaster* can continue to be squeezed into *C. agilis* as a subspecies is problematic; perhaps to rank it as a fourth species of mangabey would be the most satisfactory solution, returning to the 30 yr old schema for mangabey taxonomy that Dobroruka and Badalec (1966) proposed.

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