

How does natural foraging behaviour influence risk of obesity and abnormal repetitive behaviours in captive lemurs?



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Background

Within Lemuriformes, there is between-species **variation** in risks of **obesity** and abnormal repetitive behaviour (**ARB**)

- **Obesity:** *Eulemur macaco flavifrons*^(1,2) & *Lemur catta*⁽³⁾ are particularly prone, *Eulemur fulvus rufus* is less so⁽¹⁾
- **ARB:** species from the genus *Varecia* & *Microcebus* perform more ARB, *Lemur* & *Cheirogaleus* species perform less⁽⁴⁾

Why do we see such variation? How can we 'unpick' why these differences exist, so that we can improve animal health and welfare?

Goals

- Identify relationships between natural foraging behaviour and diet, and the prevalence of obesity and ARB in captive lemurs, using **phylogenetic comparative methods**
- Use findings to make targeted dietary, husbandry, and enrichment recommendations to decrease obesity and ARB, potentially improving **welfare** for thousands of individual captive lemurs from different species
- Findings should assist in **population and collection management**

What do I need?

I need basic data on captive lemurs including body weights, housing and enrichment details, and the prevalence of ARB.

I have designed a survey to collect these data, which I would like to invite BIAZA members to complete. Please ask me, help yourself to a survey or mini-poster, or email for more details: em15953@bristol.ac.uk

Thank you!



Photograph
Female blue-eyed black lemur, *Eulemur macaco flavifrons* at Cologne Zoo, Germany (Christoph Schwitzer)

References

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