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## **Intergroup encounters in Verreaux's sifakas: factors influencing individual participation**

How animals achieve collective action for territorial defence between neighbouring groups is a central topic in animal behaviour. Since intergroup conflicts are costly, individuals should participate in encounters when the benefits overcome the costs. However, benefits and costs can vary among members of the same group, which may explain different patterns of individual participation in intergroup conflicts. For example, numeric advantage of males or presence of dependent infants can influence the participation in a conflict. In order to examine factors influencing individual participation in intergroup encounters, we observed 8 groups of Verreaux's sifakas in Madagascar. We registered 70 encounters over a period of one year. Male sifakas participated more often in encounters than females. Males were more likely to join conflicts when their own group had more males than the opponent group. Since in Verreaux's sifakas groups with more males are more likely to win conflicts than groups with fewer males, male participation might be influenced by achieving a numeric advantage and, thus, the power to win the conflict. In contrast, females participated more often in intergroup conflicts when the opponent group comprised more males, suggesting that they participate to provide extra individual power for defending their home range. In addition, females participated less often in conflicts when dependent infants were present, whereas male participation was not influenced by the presence of dependent infants. Thus, in sifakas male and female participation in intergroup conflicts is influenced by the potential power of the opponent group.