

**White, F. J. The social organization of the pygmy chimpanzee.**

The pygmy chimpanzee, like the common chimpanzee, displays a fission-fusion social organization. However, unlike the Pan troglodytes, parties of Pan paniscus are strongly influenced by affiliation among individual females. Three aspects of social organization were examined during a two year field study of pygmy chimpanzees in the Lomako Forest of central Zaire. Patterning of interactions among and between the sexes, choice of nearest neighbour, and composition of parties were recorded for the members of two separate communities and one splinter group. There was a high degree of affiliation among females in each aspect of social organization examined. Males showed little affiliation towards each other whereas aggressive interactions were relatively frequent among males. Cohesion between males and females was more apparent at larger party sizes.

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