

White, F. J. and M. A. Burgman. Associations between individual pygmy chimpanzees; numerical taxonomic analysis of party composition.

Pygmy chimpanzees display a fission-fusion social organization in which individuals associate in parties of variable size and composition. Data from two years of field work on changes in the composition of parties of Pan paniscus in the Lomako Forest of Zaire were analysed using Numerical Taxonomic methods. The results show that parties consist of cores of one or more subgroups of adult females both with and without infants. These females are more predicatable and consistent in their associations with other females than were adult males. There were no consistent subgroups of adult males. Male membership of parties is flexible, and males often join and leave parties alone. The organization of parties in the pygmy chimpanzee differs drastically to that of the common chimpanzee.

This work was supported by NSF research grants BNS8311251 and BNS831120601 and a grant from the Boise Fund.

Paper presented at annual meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, New York, 1987.

American Journal of Physical Anthropology 72; 268-269 (1987).