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THE BEHAVIOR OF OLD AND INJURED INDIVIDUALS IN A WILD
POPULATION OF TOQUE-MACAQUES (MACACA SINICA)
IN POLONNARUWA, SRI LANKA

A thesis presented for the degree of
Master of Philosophy
in the University of Peradeniya
by
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ABSTRACT

The Behavior of Old and Injured Individuals in
Wild Toque Macaque Societies

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M.Phil. thesis

This study deals with the social behavior of aged and injured animals in wild toque macaque (Macaca sinica) groups in Polonnaruwa. All macaques in the study population were individually identified. The behaviors of post-reproductive females were compared to those of reproductive females, and those of aged males, to young adult males. The behaviors of injured individuals were compared to their behaviors when they had recovered from their wounds. All behaviors were sampled using focal animal sampling techniques.

Aged animals differed significantly from young individuals in their activity budgets, spatial position in the group, levels of aggression and social interaction, and in the nature of their social relationships. The behaviors of injured animals differed significantly from those of their healthy states. The physical disadvantages experienced by injured animals appeared to be partly offset by compensatory care behaviors that they received from members of their social group.