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ASSESSING RELATEDNESS WITHIN AND AMONG GROUPS OF BOLIVIAN TAMARINS (*SAGUINUS SPP.)*

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Abstract

Marmosets and tamarins were long thought to be monogamous group living primates, however more recent research has shown these primates exhibit a great deal of flexibility and variation in their social structures and reproductive patterns. I extracted genomic DNA from hair samples taken from two species of wild Bolivian tamarins (saddle-back tamarins, *Saguinus fuscicollis*, and red-bellied tamarins, *S. labiatus*) and quantified relatedness between individuals using 13 microsatellite loci. I performed maternity and paternity analyses for the juveniles in each of five social groups. Average pairwise relatedness varied across groups, indicating variation in the relationships between group members. There was no significant difference between average relatedness among males and females, indicating lack of sex-biased dispersal. The results of this study indicate variation in social structure between groups and agree with previous studies of these primates characterizing the flexible nature of their social and reproductive systems.