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**RETHINKING THE ECOLOGY OF EASTERN AMAZONIAN BEARDED SAKIS (*CHIROPOTES SATANAS*)**

Ferrari, S.F.<sup>1,2,3\*</sup>, da Silva, S.S.B.<sup>2</sup>, Pereira, A.P.C.P.<sup>3</sup>, Port-Carvalho, M.<sup>3</sup>, Santos, R.R.<sup>2</sup> & Veiga, L.M.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Genetics, UFPa, Belém-PA, Brazil <ferrari@ufpa.br>;

<sup>2</sup>Department of Zoology, Museu Goeldi, Belém-PA, Brazil;

<sup>3</sup>Department of Experimental Psychology, UFPa, Belém-PA, Brazil

Until recently, comparatively little was known of the ecology of the bearded sakis (*Chiropotes* spp.), especially the eastern Amazonian morphotypes, *satanas* and *utahicki*. The few available data upheld the view that these sakis are intolerant of habitat fragmentation and, as specialised seed predators, dependent on large tracts of undisturbed forest for their survival. Our field studies at three sites in eastern Amazonia provide new insights into the ecology of these sakis, which appear able to tolerate considerable habitat disturbance, in the absence of hunting pressure. Overall, an inverse relationship was found between the size of forest fragments and the density of bearded saki populations. Family groups were found in a number of fragments of less than 20 ha, some of which have been isolated for almost twenty years, and sakis were relatively abundant in tracts of forest of between 100 and 1000 hectares. Such abundance contrasts considerably with densities recorded at continuous forest sites in the same region. One *C.s. satanas* group (24-28 members) monitored over a three-year period in a large tract of forest occupied a home range of approximately 80 ha. In general, study subjects fed primarily on seeds, although the mesocarp of palm fruits (Arecaceae) was an important dietary item at most sites, and flowers were an important resource for one group in a small fragment. Births were recorded in many groups. Clearly, eastern Amazonian bearded sakis are far more tolerant of habitat fragmentation than was previously assumed, which has positive implications for the long-term management of remnant populations.