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FISSION-FUSION SOCIALITY IN BEARDED SAKIS (CHIROPOTES ALBINASUS AND CHIROPOTES SATANUS) IN BRAZILIAN AMAZONIA

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Bearded sakis (*Chiropotes*) form relatively large multimale-multifemale groups, which may subdivide regularly. These subgroups were originally believed to be temporary foraging parties, but recent studies have revealed more complex patterns resembling the fission-fusion organization of spider monkeys and chimpanzees. Here we describe patterns of social organization in two free-ranging groups representing *Chiropotes albinasus* and *Chiropotes satanas*. The *C. albinasus* group contained more than 50 members, and occupied a home range of more than 700 hectares, whereas the *C. satanas* group had up to 39 members, in a home range of <100 ha. Social organization was similar in both species, the groups generally divided into two or more subgroups containing 7-25 (*C. albinasus*) and 8-22 (*C. satanas*) members. In both species, subgroup membership varied continuously as larger units divided into smaller ones and vice versa. Fusion of the whole social group was rare in both species. In *C. albinasus*, group members that came together at the end of the afternoon would sleep together, but disperse again in the morning. No clear relationship was observed between grouping patterns and the distribution of resources, however, in *C. satanas*, group fusion was more common during the wet season, and appeared to be influenced in part by the availability of resources such as the immature seeds of *Simarouba amara*, a species with a clumped distribution and synchronized fruiting.