

Habitat-dependent intergroup hostility in Diana monkeys, *Cercopithecus diana*

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Date of deposit	26 April 2021
Document version	Author's accepted manuscript
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Citation for published version	Decellieres, M., Zuberbühler, K., & León, J. (2021). Habitat-dependent intergroup hostility in Diana monkeys, <i>Cercopithecus diana</i> . <i>Animal Behaviour</i> , 178, 95-104.
Link to published version	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2021.06.001

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1 **Habitat-dependent intergroup hostility in Diana monkeys (*Cercopithecus diana*)**

2

3

4 **ABSTRACT**

5

6 Territorial threat is costly and variable across context, behavioural flexibility is favoured to
7 maximise any cost/benefit ratio. This is well illustrated in how animals react to familiar or
8 unfamiliar out-group members. In some situations, neighbours are better tolerated than
9 strangers, resulting in a ‘Dear-enemy effect’; in other situations, the pattern is reversed,
10 resulting in a ‘Nasty-neighbour effect’. Typically, the effects are species-specific traits,
11 although both can also occur within the same species. Here, we investigated wild Diana
12 monkeys of Taï Forest (Ivory Coast) in their reactions to out-group individuals using
13 playbacks of both, familiar and unfamiliar male alarm calls to eagles. We found that groups
14 living in primary forest (high group density, high food availability and low predation
15 pressure) followed a ‘nasty neighbour’ strategy whereas groups living in secondary forest
16 (low group density, low resources and high predation risk) followed a ‘dear enemy’ strategy,
17 suggesting that group density, predation pressure and food availability can impact on how
18 hostile behaviour is displayed in non-human primates. Our results confirm a high behavioural
19 flexibility in primate relationships between conspecifics of different identities depending on
20 ecological traits of the habitat.

21

22 **Key words:** *Cercopithecus diana*; dear enemy; habitat quality; nasty neighbour; primary
23 forest; secondary forest.

24

25

26 INTRODUCTION

27

28 Territorial behaviour and hostility towards outgroup individuals is widespread throughout
29 the animal kingdom with evidence from insects and crustaceans (Fogo et al., 2019; Langen
30 et al., 2000), birds (Greenwood et al., 1979; Yoon et al., 2012), fishes (Sogawa & Kohda,
31 2018), reptiles (Bee & Gerhardt, 2001; Husak & Fox, 2003) and mammals (Monclús et al.,
32 2014; Ostfeld, 1990). Responses and strategies differ in species-specific ways that can be
33 further modified by environmental, social or life history factors (Christensen & Radford,
34 2018).

35

36 For species that live in stable territories, two basic strategies have been observed by which
37 individuals interact with their neighbours. First, individuals distinguish between neighbours
38 and strangers and are relatively more aggressive to strangers than neighbours, the ‘Dear-
39 enemy effect’ (Temeles, 1994). This may be because stranger individuals pose a greater
40 territorial threat than familiar neighbours if they are actively looking for a territory or trying
41 to get access to sexual partners, which is usually not the case for neighbouring individuals
42 (Temeles, 1994). In the extreme case, neighbouring groups may be able to establish friendly
43 social relations with each other, allowing them to reduce energy, time budget and injury costs
44 (Fisher, 1954; Fogo et al., 2019). Second, the alternative strategy is to be more aggressive to
45 familiar neighbours than unfamiliar strangers, the ‘Nasty-neighbour effect’ (Müller &
46 Manser, 2007). This is expected when resources are limited and intergroup competition is
47 correspondingly high, suggesting that the costs of intergroup hostility can be outweighed by
48 ecological gains (Sanada-Morimura et al., 2003; Wheeler & Fischer, 2012). Here, unfamiliar
49 strangers are less of a threat because they do not constantly compete for local resources, as
50 neighbours do (Briefer et al., 2008).

51

52 High conspecific densities can increase conflict in territorial species, not only by limiting
53 access to resources, e.g. space, food and access to partners, but also by increasing resources
54 active defense (Stamps, 1994; Yoon et al., 2002). For example, sand fiddler crab (*Uca*
55 *pugilator*) males become more aggressive towards their neighbours following a reduction in
56 the space between burrows, produced by an increase in the number of conspecifics (Praat &

57 McLain, 2006). Aggression between neighbouring groups can also be necessary to obtain
58 resources, for example, dominant and more aggressive black-and-white colobus (*Colobus*
59 *guereza*) groups have access to more and better quality food in their territory core areas than
60 subordinate groups (Harris, 2006). Another factor that can influence territorial behaviour is
61 predation pressure. LaManna & Eason (2007) experimentally showed that a higher
62 perception of predation risk reduced the length and intensity level of fights for territorial
63 defense in African blockheads (*Steatocranus casuarius*).

64

65 In primates, there are considerable inter-species differences in how individuals interact with
66 neighbouring groups and strangers (Crofoot & Wrangham, 2009; Pisor & Surbeck, 2019;
67 Wich & Sterck, 2007). Most primates live in stable social groups and occupy geographically
68 fixed home ranges, typically surrounded by neighbouring groups with which they have
69 frequent encounters (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009). These intergroup interactions can range
70 from benign to hostile. With overlapping territories, groups may choose to ignore and avoid
71 each other, or they may engage in agonistic behaviour in order to defend it. In some group
72 species such as baboons (*Papio* spp.), neighbouring groups usually avoid each other (Rowell,
73 1988) while in some more territorial species such as Campbell's monkeys (*Cercopithecus*
74 *campbelli*), interactions may be more violent. Encounters with unfamiliar migrants also occur
75 regularly, which can have considerable fitness implications for some group members if
76 migrants are motivated to join an existing group or mate with opposite-sex group members
77 (Wilson et al., 2014). Thus, the ability to discriminate between familiar and unfamiliar
78 individuals is likely to be of considerable relevance, something that can only be acquired
79 during intergroup encounters (Müller & Manser, 2007; Van Dyk & Evans, 2007; Wilkinson
80 et al., 2010). Playback experiments have shown that vervet monkeys (*Chlorocebus*
81 *pygerythrus*) recognize the calls of their neighbours even though they interacted with them
82 only during intergroup encounters (Cheney & Seyfarth, 1982). Similarly, chimpanzees (*Pan*
83 *troglydites*) appear to recognise the calls of neighbouring individuals as they respond
84 differently to those compared to the calls of familiar group members or unfamiliar strangers
85 (Herbinger et al., 2009).

86

87 In previous research, Stephan & Zuberbühler (2016a) reported that Diana monkeys
88 discriminate familiar from unfamiliar conspecifics by their vocalisations. Moreover, when
89 comparing two populations, they found that groups in Taï Forest (Ivory Coast) generally
90 followed a Nasty-neighbour strategy (males responded significantly faster to familiar alarm
91 calls) whereas groups on Tiwai Island (Sierra Leone) showed a Dear-enemy effect (males
92 emitted significantly more call sequences towards unfamiliar male's alarm calls). These
93 results indicate that groups respond more frequently and aggressively to familiar groups
94 during intergroup encounters in Taï Forest, suggesting that intergroup competition was
95 higher than in Tiwai Island. Although the two field sites are about 500km apart they used to
96 be part of a continuous forest habitat, the Upper Guinean forest belt, until at least the 1900s
97 (CILSS, 2016; Parren & Graaf, 1995). Correspondingly, the remaining Diana monkey
98 populations show no differences in social organization (one reproductive male and several
99 adult females with their offspring; (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009; Oates et al., 1990; Todd et al.,
100 2008), home range size: 0.5-1.0 km²; (Coye et al., 2015; Höner et al., 1997; Whitesides et
101 al., 1988; Zuberbühler, 2000)) and other socio-ecological parameters (female philopatry and
102 bondedness; (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009)). Both study sites were subject to heavy logging
103 activities in the 20th century, but Tiwai Island has been more affected resulting in an
104 exclusively secondary forest habitat characterized as a mosaic of degenerated ecosystems
105 (Whitesides et al., 1988) whereas Taï Forest is characterised by a mix of primary and
106 secondary forest (Guillaumet & Adjanohoun, 1971).

107

108 In Taï forest, Diana monkeys are confronted with various predators (crowned eagles:
109 *Stephanoaetus coronatus*, leopards: *Panthera pardus*, chimpanzees: *Pan troglodytes* and
110 humans: *Homo sapiens*), and have developed adaptative responses to predation pressure like
111 vigilance, mobbing and temporary cryptic behaviour. Among these predators, crowned
112 eagles are the only one that is abundant in both primary and secondary forest in the Taï forest
113 (Shultz & Thomsett, 2007; Shultz, 2008). They are ambush predators and their hunting
114 success is considerably reduced once they are detected in the surroundings (Shultz &
115 Thomsett, 2007). Group living animals can reduce their risk of predation by either live in a
116 high group density or having heterospecific associations (Höner et al., 1997). Thus, Diana

117 monkey groups living in high densities and forming more heterospecific associations are
118 more likely to detect a predator and less likely to be targeted during an attack.

119

120 Here, we followed up on the previously documented behavioural flexibility of Diana
121 monkeys towards their neighbours, with a playback experiment to test whether differences
122 in interacting with neighbours is also present at a local scale in Tai Forest. Although the
123 preferred habitat of highly frugivorous Diana monkeys is the primary forest (Booth, 1956;
124 Groves, 1985) they have been observed in secondary forests (Bourlière et al., 1974), logged
125 forests, farm bush (Davies, 1987) and newly cleared farmland (Jeffrey, 1974). On Tiwai
126 Island group densities are significantly lower in secondary than primary forests (0.7
127 groups/km² vs. 2.5 groups/km²; (Fimbel, 1994)), most likely because of the lack of large
128 trees, which has a pronounced negative impact on Diana monkey densities (Bourlière, 1985).
129 Therefore, we expect that, within the same population, Diana monkeys living in different
130 types of forests use different strategies to interact with their neighbours. In particular, as
131 primary forest areas contain high group densities of Diana monkeys and lower predation risk
132 by crowned eagles, we generally predicted behaviour consistent with a Nasty-neighbour
133 strategy, whereas we predicted the opposite, i.e. a Dear-enemy effect, for secondary forest
134 areas where intergroup competition is lower and crowned eagle predation pressure is higher.

135

136 MATERIALS AND METHODS

137

138 *Study site*

139

140 The study was carried out in the Tai National Park, located in Western Ivory Coast (6°20'N
141 to 5°10'N and 4°20'W to 6°50'W) from January to March 2020. Different categories of
142 forests can be found in Tai National Park. The main type is the primary forest, a moist
143 evergreen ombrophilous forest, which is characterized by a large number of tree species. On
144 the other hand, secondary forest is denser with a large number of lianas and smaller trees
145 (e.g., *Anthocleista nobilis* and *Musanga cecropioides*) and a general lack of tall emergent
146 trees of 40-60m (e.g. *Diospyros spp.* and *Tarrietia utilis*). Transitions between primary and
147 secondary forests are graded, due to several stages of regeneration towards mature primary

148 forest. The two types of forest differ in their structure but also in their vegetation composition
149 and quality (Guillaumet & Adjanohoun, 1971). Therefore, food resources (fruits, leaves, and
150 insects) vary from one forest patch to the next, as well as other factors of the habitat such as
151 the stratification, the density, the size, and the nature of the vegetation (Bourlière, 1985).
152 Hence, the differences between these surroundings may have a direct impact on primate
153 distribution and behaviour.

154

155 *Subjects*

156

157 The studied groups consisted mostly of non-habituated Diana monkeys (26 of 29 groups in
158 primary forest and all 7 groups in secondary forest were not habituated to human presence),
159 however, the experimenters were careful not to be detected by the monkeys during each trial.
160 Each group was recognized and identified by its estimated size, territory location and
161 polyspecific association composition. Sometimes it was possible to additionally confirm the
162 identity of the group by the identification of the adult male using individually distinct
163 physical features (e.g. scars, ear notches, or broken fingers or tail). Finally, a minimum of 6
164 GPS points (7.35 ± 1.92) were collected for each group over several days, every time it was
165 seen and identified, as a proxy of the area used by the group one month prior to the study
166 period. When it was not possible to unambiguously identify a group (e.g. encounters of a
167 group in an overlapping area between neighbouring groups), we postponed the playback
168 experiment to another day and did not include its location in the estimation of the groups
169 used area.

170

171 *Diana monkeys loud alarm calls*

172

173 One of the most distinctive characteristics of Diana monkeys is their vocal behaviour. Males
174 spend most of their time in the periphery of the group and regularly produce acoustically
175 distinct loud alarm calls to predators, such as crowned eagles (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*)
176 (Fig.1) or leopards (*Panthera pardus*), but also to non-predatory disturbances (e.g. fall of a
177 tree) (Zuberbühler et al., 1997); a strategy that may also have a social function in surveying
178 potential rivals (Gautier & Gautier-Hion, 1983). They propagate over long distances of nearly

179 1 kilometre within dense forest, much beyond the immediate group, suggesting calls function
180 not only to communicate to local group members but also to distant conspecifics as part of a
181 resource defence strategy; calling is often contagious, with males responding to each other's
182 calls (Zuberbühler et al., 1997; Zuberbühler, 2002). A more recent study (Stephan &
183 Zuberbühler, 2016a) shows that discrimination of alarm calls based on familiarity with the
184 caller is a general cognitive ability of Diana monkeys. Thus, these loud alarm calls not only
185 encode information about the type of event, but also the familiarity with the emitter,
186 suggesting that two types of information can be transmitted by the same signal. As eagles are
187 ambush predators, their hunting success relies on surprise. Once their presence is detected,
188 they usually abandon predation to find less alert individuals (Zuberbühler et al., 1999).
189 Consequently, the predator information encoded in these alarm calls does not imply an
190 immediate threat since at the moment the alarm call is given, the predator is already gone.
191 Therefore, the salient information that remains is the identity of the caller (Stephan &
192 Zuberbühler, 2016a).

193

194 Despite the fact that intergroup encounters in Diana monkeys are rare, it is not uncommon to
195 see intense agonistic interactions between groups when competing for territory occupancy
196 (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009). During these agonistic encounters, males produce loud alarm
197 calls, approach and chase the intruder and adopt a vigilant behaviour. A similar response to
198 that elicit by crowned eagles.

199

200 *Experimental design*

201

202 Male alarm calls were obtained by playing back two different recordings of eagle shrieks to
203 wild groups of Diana monkeys. We only used eagle-related stimuli because eagle alarm calls
204 are generally more common than leopard alarms and because leopards supposedly rarely
205 venture into the secondary forests near the park border (Jenny, 1996). As a consequence,
206 subjects either heard a familiar neighbour's or an unfamiliar stranger's eagle alarm calls.
207 Unfamiliar males' calls were recorded from non-neighbouring males, at least 2km from the
208 target male's current location, which corresponds to twice a home range diameter
209 (Zuberbühler et al., 1997). Playback stimuli were edited such that each consisted of three

210 alarm call sequences separated by 5s of silence. Each stimulus served in two different
211 conditions, either as eagle alarms from a familiar and an unfamiliar male. From the available
212 master recordings, we selected exemplars for further editing if they were free from overlap
213 with other individuals' calls (conspecific or other primate species). For background bird and
214 insect sounds, we applied bandpass filters provided this did not affect the acoustic structure
215 of the male alarm calls. All recordings used as playback stimuli were of good recording
216 quality, i.e., high signal-to-noise ratio and recorded at close distances from 10 to 20 metres.
217 All records were edited, normalised and analysed with Audacity 2.0.6.0 and Raven 1.4
218 software.

219

220 *Data collection*

221

222 We carried out playback trials on N=29 males in primary forest areas and N=7 males in
223 secondary forest areas. We used a total of N=45 loud alarm calls as playback stimuli, N=37
224 calls were used only in one trial, N=6 calls were used in two trials and N=2 stimuli used more
225 than twice (the first one was used in 4 trials and the second one in 5 trials). We ensured that
226 the same stimulus was not played more than once within a radius of 500m during the same
227 week to prevent habituation effects. Male subjects were tested twice, once in the neighbour
228 and once in the stranger condition (primary forest: N=15 males; secondary forest: N=7
229 males); another N=14 primary forest males only heard neighbouring alarm calls (N=3) or
230 only stranger alarm calls (N=11).

231

232 Two experimenters carried out each playback trial. First, the group was located by auditory
233 cues. Then, experimenter 1 silently approached the group to a distance of 10-15m, while
234 experimenter 2 positioned the playback equipment around 20-50m away from the group, out
235 of sight of individuals. As Diana monkeys are arboreal primates, to better emulate natural
236 conditions and to decrease attenuation by vegetation, the speaker was positioned on elevated
237 places, such as trunks of fallen trees or small hills (Fischer et al., 2013; Zuberbühler et al.,
238 1997). Before each trial, the group was observed for 15 min prior to starting the playback to
239 ensure there were no external stimuli modifying their behaviour. We proceeded to broadcast
240 the playback stimulus if no alarm calls were produced during this time period, neither by the

241 focal male or any other conspecific or hetero-specific. Once the stimulus was played, the
242 male's vocal response was recorded until he stopped alarm calling for at least 2min but no
243 more than 10min. We excluded all trials from analysis if other monkey species started alarm
244 calling before the focal Diana monkey group.

245

246 We coded the following vocal and locomotor variables on the focal male (Spehar & Di Fiore,
247 2013): latency from playback start to first call response, number of calls, number of call
248 sequences, average call duration, total duration of calls emitted, mean interval between call
249 sequences, total interval between call sequences, approach behaviour and response within the
250 first ten seconds (Table A1). Approach behaviour was the only response registered in real
251 time during the trials; all the other variables were extracted from audio recordings in the
252 laboratory. Moreover, whenever possible we noted whether focal male approached or moved
253 away from the location of the speaker, by keeping track of him either visually or by substrate
254 noise created by his movements. Finally, we estimated the group size when it was possible,
255 identified all other monkey species present, and registered their vocal responses.

256

257 All stimuli were broadcasted using an Apple iPod touch digital player connected to an AER
258 alpha speaker amplifier. We used Audacity 2.0.6.0 to edit the playback stimuli, and a
259 Dostmann MS85 (Dostmann) amplitude level meter to adjust the sound level. Absolute
260 amplitude levels of the different stimuli varied between 102–107 dB(C), measured at 50
261 cm from the speaker, to match natural males' loud calls characteristics. Vocal responses were
262 recorded with a Sennheiser ME67 directional microphone and a Marantz PMD 661 solid-
263 state recorder (44.1 kHz sampling rate, 16 bits amplitude resolution, and stored in wav
264 format). All acoustic parameters were manually extracted using Raven 1.4 software.

265

266 *Analyses*

267

268 To investigate whether the familiarity of a simulated intruder had an impact on Diana monkey
269 males response in different habitats, we used a series of Generalized Linear Mixed Models
270 (GLMM) (Bolker et al., 2009) fit by maximum likelihood and Laplace approximation using
271 the 'glmer' function (in R lme4 package) based on 9 response variables (Table A1). To

272 reduce manifold testing, redundancy and correlations between variables, we carried out a
273 Factor Analysis utilizing the ‘factanal’ function (in R psych package) and chose the variable
274 with the most grounded stacking from every one of the four coming about factors (Factor 1:
275 Number of call sequences; Factor 2: Latency; Factor 3: Average call duration; Factor 4: Mean
276 interval between call sequences) (Table A2). We tested these four variables as response
277 variables in four separated models. We included the familiarity (i.e. familiar, unfamiliar) and
278 the type of forest (i.e. primary, secondary) as fixed factors. The used stimulus was taken as
279 random factor to account for repeated measurements. After checking for over-dispersion. We
280 used different laws in the GLMM depending on how our data were distributed. We applied
281 a GLMpoisson model for continuous variables (factor 1), while a GLMgamma model was
282 used for temporal data (factor 2) and a GLMgaussian model for transformed data normally
283 distributed (factor 3), finally a GLMbinomial-negative model was constructed for continuous
284 decimal variables (factor 4). Spatial autocorrelation was tested for each model and when an
285 effect was detected it was corrected in the model. Finally, for each model created, we verified
286 that the difference in sample size had no impact on the results obtained using the ‘PermTest’
287 function (in R pgirmess package) and the ‘Anova’ function (in R car package) performing a
288 type II ANOVA Wald Chi-Square Tests.

289

290 To test the significance of the fixed factors and their relations, we used the ‘Anova’ function
291 in each model, performing a type III ANOVA Wald Chi-Square Tests. Originally, all
292 explanatory variables and interactions involving the ‘Familiarity’ and ‘Forest’ factors were
293 integrated into the full models. Then, insignificant interactions were removed to simplify the
294 model (Engqvist, 2005). Finally, as post hoc analyses, we used Tukey’s test with
295 “TukeyHSD” function (in R multcompView package). All statistical analyses were
296 performed using R Studio v. 3.6.1. The significance threshold α was set at 0.05.

297

298 *Estimating densities*

299

300 During each group encounter, we registered the GPS *points*. We then estimated a minimal
301 sampled area using a 100% minimum convex polygon (MCP) (Mohr, 1947; Hayne, 1949)
302 method for all the groups, which allowed us to compare group densities between forests. We

303 calculated a minimal sampled area via ArcGIS Online. To estimate the number of groups per
304 km² we used the following formula:

305

306
$$\text{Number of groups/km}^2 = \text{Number of groups} \div \text{Surface area (km}^2\text{)}$$

307 *(formula 1)*

308

309 **RESULTS**

310

311 *Group densities and used area*

312

313 We sampled a minimal area of 3.78 km² in the primary forest and 1.6 km² in the secondary
314 forest (using MCP). Within these areas, we tested 29 and 7 Diana monkey groups,
315 respectively (Fig. A1), suggesting group densities of 7.7 and 4.4 groups per km² in primary
316 and secondary forest, respectively, an approximate ratio of 1.75 : 1. Moreover, the average
317 areas used one month prior to the study period by groups in the primary and secondary forest
318 were 0.38 ± 0.14 km² and 0.41 ± 0.18 km², respectively.

319

320 *Vocal responses*

321

322 When analysing the number of call sequences in response to playback stimuli, we found a
323 significant interaction between forest and familiarity ($\chi^2_1 = 8.11$, $P = 0.004$) (Table A3).
324 Moreover, we found that males from secondary forest emitted significantly more call
325 sequences towards unfamiliar than to familiar callers ($\chi^2_1 = 6.53$, $P = 0.0105$; secondary forest
326 males' number of call sequences given to familiar vs. unfamiliar males: 22.67 ± 6.41 vs. 37
327 ± 5) (Fig. 2). Furthermore, there was a difference between males of both forest types, with
328 secondary forest males giving more sequences of calls than primary forest males in both
329 familiar ($\chi^2_1 = 11.17$, $P < 0.008$; number of call sequences given to unfamiliar males by
330 secondary forest males vs. familiar males by primary forest males: 37 ± 5 vs. 10.24 ± 6.45 .
331 $\chi^2_1 = 9.78$, $P < 0.002$; number of call sequences given to familiar males by secondary vs.

332 primary forest males: 22.67 ± 6.41 vs. 10.24 ± 6.45) and unfamiliar conditions ($\chi^2_1 = 10.12$,
333 $P < 0.001$; number of call sequences given to unfamiliar males by secondary vs. primary
334 forest males: 37 ± 5 vs. 10.83 ± 2.25 . $\chi^2_1 = 10.36$, $P < 0.001$; number of call sequences given
335 to familiar males by secondary forest males vs. to unfamiliar males by primary forest males:
336 22.67 ± 6.41 vs. 10.83 ± 2.25) (Fig. 2).

337

338 After analysing the response latency, we found a significant interaction between forest and
339 familiarity ($\chi^2_1 = 6.05$, $P = 0.014$) (Table A3). Post hoc test showed that primary forest males
340 responded to familiar males' alarm calls faster than to unfamiliar ones ($\chi^2_1 = 4.14$, $P = 0.042$;
341 primary forest males' response latency to familiar vs. unfamiliar callers: 16.97 ± 10.91 sec
342 vs. 28.96 ± 16.30 sec) (Fig. 3). On the contrary, secondary forest males responded to
343 unfamiliar males' alarm calls faster than primary forest males did ($\chi^2_1 = 3.99$, $P = 0.046$;
344 response latency to unfamiliar males by secondary vs. primary forest males: 8.37 ± 2.8 sec
345 vs. 28.96 ± 16.3 sec) (Fig. 3).

346

347 When analysing the average call duration in response to playback stimuli, we did not find a
348 significant interaction between both factors, type of forest and familiarity ($\chi^2_1 = 1.77$, $P =$
349 0.184) (Table A3). However, the average call duration varied from one forest to another (χ^2_1
350 $= 4.76$, $P = 0.029$): primary forest males produced longer calls than secondary forest males
351 (2.06 ± 0.74 sec vs. 1.67 ± 0.57 sec) (Fig. 4a). Moreover, the familiarity of the simulated
352 intruder had an effect on the call duration emitted by the focal male ($\chi^2_1 = 6.69$, $P = 0.01$):
353 the playback of familiar males elicited longer calls than the unfamiliar males ones ($2.14 \pm$
354 0.74 sec vs. 1.72 ± 0.62 sec) (Fig. 4b).

355

356 Finally, the mean interval between call sequences did not differ across different playback
357 conditions ($\chi^2_1 = 0.64$, $P = 0.423$) (Table A3).

358

359 *Lack of response:*

360

361 In the primary forest, ten of the tested males (40%, $n = 25$) did not respond to the stimulus of
362 calls from unfamiliar males, compared to only one (5.9%, $n = 18$) ignored stimuli when calls

363 from familiar males were played back (Table 1). In the secondary forest, all males responded
364 to each playback experiment. The results of the exact Fisher's tests with a Yates' correlation
365 indicate that the probability of observing these behaviours in primary forest is significantly
366 lower than to the expected by chance ($\chi^2_1 = 6.52, P = 0.011$). Thus, the non-response of Diana
367 monkeys in primary forest when they hear an unfamiliar individual is not random.

368

369 *Association with other monkey species:*

370

371 During the playback trials, primary (n=44) and secondary (n=14) forest Diana monkeys were
372 found mostly when associated with other monkey species (95% and 93% of the trials,
373 respectively). Primary forest Diana monkeys associated the most with red colobus
374 (*Procolobus badius*), 88% of mixed groups, while Campbell's monkeys (*Cercopithecus*
375 *campbelli*) were always present in Diana monkeys' mixed associations in secondary forest.
376 Moreover, secondary forest Diana monkeys formed mixed groups with three or more monkey
377 species 77% of the time, while primary forest Diana monkeys did only in 27% (Table A4).

378

379 **DISCUSSION**

380

381 Our results show that free-living male Diana monkeys respond differently to loud conspecific
382 alarms calls (familiar or unfamiliar) depending on the type of forest they inhabit. Within the
383 same population of Tai Forest, Ivory Coast, males responded to playbacks of familiar
384 conspecifics from neighbouring groups in habitat-specific ways. Males living in primary
385 forest responded faster and gave longer call sequences to familiar individuals, whereas
386 secondary forest males gave more calls sequences in response to unfamiliar individuals' calls,
387 suggesting that the habitat, and the intergroup competition that results from it (Stephan &
388 Zuberbühler, 2016a), determines how individuals interact with outgroup conspecifics. A
389 similar pattern has been found in a previous study that compared Diana monkeys from two
390 different study sites, showing that responses to neighbours can vary depending on local
391 circumstances (Stephan & Zuberbühler, 2016a).

392

393 In primary forest areas, we found that males responded faster to familiar neighbours than to
394 unfamiliar strangers (Fig. 3) and often (40%) even ignored the calls of strangers (Table 1).
395 We interpreted these two findings as a Nasty-neighbour effect, suggesting that primary forest
396 individuals are highly intolerant to their neighbours and less concerned about unfamiliar
397 strangers. This strategy is relevant in social species where the number of resident groups, and
398 therefore neighbouring individuals, surpass the amount of potential intruders in a given area.
399 In our case, the group density in the primary forest area was higher than in the secondary
400 forest (7.7 vs. 4.4 groups/km², respectively), leading to more frequent encounters with
401 neighbouring groups. This is in line with previous research showing that group densities in
402 primary is higher than in secondary forest for Diana monkeys (Fimbel, 1994; Höner et al.,
403 1997). Considering the high group density in primary forest, it is reasonable to assume this
404 habitat is closer to saturation, increasing the pressure to defend territories against
405 encroachment from neighbouring groups. Hence, a vigorously defence of an established
406 territory from surrounding groups seems to be favoured. This strong competition leads to
407 aggressive behaviours towards familiar groups that pose a threat to access to resources. In
408 addition, effective defence can reduce the chances of the intruder returning to the same
409 territory at another time (Christensen & Radford, 2018).

410

411 At the same time, the average area used by Diana monkey groups one month before the study
412 (primary forest: 0.38 km²; secondary forest: 0.41 km²) and the home range sizes reported on
413 other studies are similar in primary and secondary forests (Coye et al., 2015; Höner et al.,
414 1997; Whitesides et al., 1988; Zuberbühler, 2000), suggesting that primary forest groups have
415 higher rates of intergroup encounters than secondary forest groups. Primary forest groups
416 also have high rates of territory overlap with neighbouring groups, suggesting that high rates
417 of intergroup encounters (0.36 per day) (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009) are caused by high group
418 densities. Hence, higher accessibility of resources preferred by Diana monkeys (e.g. fruits)
419 in primary than secondary forests (Brearley et al., 2004; Nadkarni et al., 2004; Parry et al.,
420 2007; Schwitzer et al., 2007) will lead to higher group densities which in turn will generate
421 higher rates of intergroup competition and neighbours a constant threat. Unfamiliar stranger
422 males, on the other hand, are possibly considered as less threatening floaters, which are just
423 passing through and hence pose no threat to resource availability. Non-resident males

424 disperse and spend time on their own or in polyspecific groups. These individuals are unlikely
425 to successfully compete for territory usurpation because: (1) Diana monkey males leave their
426 natal group when they reach adulthood. Hence, non-resident males are likely to be
427 inexperienced adults (Cords, 1987), and (2) floater males could have a lower feeding
428 efficiency, be in a lower energetic and physical condition and be more likely outcompete by
429 resident males (Buzzard & Eckardt, 2009). For example, floater ovenbird males (*Seiurus*
430 *aurocapilla*) have lower body condition indexes compared with resident males due to a
431 reduced access to high-quality food resources (Brown & Sherry, 2008; Winker, 1998).
432 Primary forest Diana monkeys, in sum, perceive neighbouring groups as more threatening in
433 territorial conflict, and show behaviour consistent with a Nasty-neighbour effect.

434

435 Conversely, secondary forest Diana monkey males produced significantly more call
436 sequences in response to unfamiliar strangers than familiar neighbours (Fig. 2), which
437 indicated a Dear-enemy effect. This behaviour may be linked to low group density and a
438 subsequent low competition between neighbouring groups (Stephan & Zuberbühler, 2016a).
439 In territorial species, population and group densities have a direct impact on territoriality
440 pressure and active territory defense (Isbell, 1994). Moreover, low group densities decrease
441 the frequency of intergroup encounters, relaxing competition with neighbouring groups.
442 Furthermore, although in general terms primary forest habitats have higher productivity and
443 better quality of resources than those in secondary forest (Bourlière, 1985), Diana monkeys
444 are able to consume a wide variety of fruits and can adapt to changes in food availability
445 (Oates et al., 1990). This diet flexibility allows Diana monkey groups to establish permanent
446 territories in secondary forest without increasing intergroup competition. As a result,
447 secondary forest males are less likely to come into contact with neighbouring groups,
448 experience less territoriality pressure and are less often engaged in aggressive interactions
449 with their neighbours.

450

451 Although differences in food availability (and group density) are a plausible explanation for
452 the observed patterns, it is possible that differences in predation pressure were the main
453 cause. Diana monkeys often form mixed groups with other monkey species to reduce the risk
454 of predation (Bshary & Noë, 1997; Höner et al., 1997). Diana monkeys prefer associate with

455 red colobus (*Procolobus badius*), as both species live in large groups and actively form and
456 maintain these associations (Holenweg et al., 1996). Mixed groups benefit from higher
457 number of individuals and sentinels (Bshary & Noë, 1997), which leads to dilution and
458 safety-in-number effects. According to our observations, Diana monkeys and red colobus
459 associated more in primary forest than in secondary forest. Whether this has to do with the
460 availability of red colobus groups or differences in predation pressure by crowned eagles
461 (*Stephanoaetus coronatus*) or chimpanzees would have to be tested. Crowned eagles are
462 certainly a main predator of Diana monkeys (Shultz & Thomsett, 2007) and densities in
463 primary and secondary forests are more or less equal (one pair every 6.5 km²: Shultz &
464 Thomsett, 2007; Shultz, 2008). With fewer red colobus groups available, secondary forest
465 Diana group may be forced to rely more on neighbouring groups than primary forest groups.
466 In sum, secondary forest males are likely to experience higher predation risk and lower
467 intergroup competition than primary forest males, suggesting that their attitude towards
468 neighbours may be more tolerant than those of primary forest groups.

469

470 Another surprising finding in our study was that secondary forest males not only produced
471 more call sequences than primary forest males (Fig. 2) but also that their calls were shorter
472 (Fig. 4a). To a human listener, the eagle alarm call sequences of secondary forest males
473 possessed a more intense quality compared to the eagle call sequences of primary forest
474 males, which consisted of longer calls but fewer call sequences. The only explanation we
475 have for this phenomenon is that males adapt call production to the sound propagation
476 properties of the local habitat (Brown & Waser, 2017; Ey & Fischer, 2009) . In one relevant
477 study, ambient noise, attenuation and signal degradation were higher in riverine forests
478 (comparable to secondary forests) than primary rain forests (Waser & Brown, 1986);
479 especially for sounds with a fundamental frequency below 1 kHz, such as Diana monkey
480 eagle loud calls (Zuberbühler et al., 1997). Whether Diana monkeys are actively trying to
481 compensate differences in acoustic distortion and dissipation in the environment by varying
482 call intensity and duration will have to be addressed by future research (Brown & Waser,
483 2017).

484

485 One last result is that both primary and secondary forest Diana monkeys responded with
486 longer calls (but not longer call sequences) to familiar neighbours than unfamiliar strangers
487 (Fig. 4b). One possible explanation for this finding is that males could be marking familiarity
488 with acoustic cues, which may be of importance for other group members and conspecifics
489 (i.e. males may make their calls longer in response to neighbours to provide cues to
490 conspecifics about the caller identity and familiarity). Primates are particularly good at
491 discriminating and extract information from differences in their vocalization's temporal
492 parameters, like call duration (Benítez et al., 2016; Maciej et al., 2011). Similar findings have
493 been reported in other primates, where auditory cues are linked to assessments of familiarity
494 of other conspecifics (*Mandrillus sphinx*: Levréro et al., 2015; *Macaca mulatta*: Pfefferle et
495 al., 2016).

496

497 Loud alarm calls produced by male Diana monkeys are complex signals because they contain
498 different information as predator type and location, and caller identity and familiarity.
499 However, there are different reasons to be confident that the differences in male's reactions,
500 here founded, were caused by the familiarity with the caller and not by the potential predator
501 in the vicinity. First, as eagles are ambush predators who are high likely to leave once
502 detected (Shultz & Thomsett, 2007), by the time a raptor is spotted and an eagle alarm call is
503 given, the predation risk substantially decrease and the salient information that remains is the
504 identity of the caller (Stephan & Zuberbühler, 2016a). Secondly, in Taï, crowned eagles
505 living in both primary and secondary forest are abundant and have the same hunting
506 behaviour (Shultz & Thomsett, 2007; Shultz, 2008). Finally, we used stimuli in which the
507 predator message, i.e. eagle, was constant, while the only condition that consistently changed
508 was the familiarity with the caller. Thus, the opposite patterns founded in both types of forest
509 in response to conspecifics are explained by social familiarity.

510

511 In sum, we here show that Diana monkeys adjust their vocal response to conspecific alarm
512 calls depending on the familiarity with the caller in habitat-dependent ways. We found that
513 males living in primary forest areas show behaviours consistent with a 'nasty neighbour'
514 strategy, whereas males in secondary forest areas show behaviours in line with a 'dear
515 enemy' strategy. Differences in intergroup competition due to habitat structure and predation

516 pressure by crowned eagles are likely factors to explain the differences in calling behaviour.
517 Such context dependence has also been found in other species. For instance, Yoon et al
518 (2012) reported a Nasty-neighbour effect in orange-crowned warblers (*Oreothlypis celata*)
519 when breeding density was high, but a Dear-enemy effect in a sparsely populated area.
520 Comparing Diana monkeys from two different locations, Stephan & Zuberbühler (2016a)
521 showed that the combination of low predation/high group density (as in our primary forest
522 scenario) favoured a Nasty-neighbour effect, whereas high predation/low group density (as
523 in our secondary forest scenario) favoured a Dear-enemy effect. This would explain why
524 primary forest males perceive neighbours as more of a threat, and why in secondary forests,
525 the threat of predators outweighs the threat posed by neighbouring conspecifics and may even
526 select for higher tolerance given that neighbouring groups may reduce predation threats.

527

528 This behavioural flexibility allows Diana monkeys to optimise their cost-benefit ratios and
529 thus increases their fitness. Since we studied the same population, the most likely explanation
530 is that the observed behavioural flexibility was in response to specific ecological traits of
531 each habitat. It would be interesting to conduct a comparative study of groups of Diana
532 monkeys alone vs. in association with other monkey groups (e.g. *Procolobus badius* or
533 *Cercopithecus campbelli*) to understand how perceived predation risk impacts on perceived
534 intergroup competition. Moreover, the effect of group size on the perceived threat of intruders
535 and territorial defence should be tested to provide additional information on Diana monkeys'
536 habit-dependant intergroup hostility response. Likewise, how familiarity among conspecifics
537 could have different levels of categorization depending on the type of forest, due to particular
538 environmental constraints, should be addressed in more detail in a complementary study.
539 Finally, how seasonal changes in fruit availability impact Diana monkeys' behaviour and
540 competition pressure should be also explored in future studies.

541

542 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

543

544 We thank the Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques, the Ministère de la Recherche
545 Scientifique and the Ministère de l'Agriculture et des Ressources Animales of Côte d'Ivoire
546 for support and permission to conduct research in the Taï National Park. Fieldwork was made

547 possible thanks to the Tai Monkey Project assistants, Ferdinand Bele and Ernest Kamy to
548 whom we express our gratitude. We are finally grateful to two anonymous reviewers and the
549 editors for their very helpful comments.

550

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796 **TABLES**

797

798 **Table 1.** *Number of responses and non-responses in primary and secondary forests*
 799 *depending on familiarity*

	Response	No response
Primary forest		
<i>Familiar</i>	17	1
<i>Unfamiliar</i>	15	10
Secondary forest		
<i>Familiar</i>	7	0
<i>Unfamiliar</i>	7	0

800

801 **Table A1.** *Vocal and locomotor variables and definitions*

Variable	Definition
<i>Latency</i>	Time between beginning of stimulus and first vocalization by focal male.
<i>Number of calls</i>	Total number of calls made by focal male.
<i>Number of call sequences</i>	Total number of call sequences by focal male.
<i>Total duration of calls</i>	Sum of the duration of call.
<i>Average call duration</i>	Average length of a call.
<i>Duration between call sequences</i>	Total duration of the silences between each call sequence.
<i>Mean interval between call sequences</i>	Average of the duration of each silence between each call sequence.
<i>Approach behaviour</i>	Approach of the male towards the speaker.
<i>Response within the first ten seconds</i>	Male first response within ten seconds of stimulus.

802

803

804 **Table A2.** Factor Loadings of vocal and locomotor variables. The factor analysis was
 805 justified as shown by the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin measure of sampling adequacy (0.71) and the
 806 Bartlett test of sphericity ($\chi^2=342.8$, $df = 36$, $P < 0.001$).

Variable	Factor 1	Factor 2	Factor 3	Factor 4
<i>Latency</i>	0.029	0.986		
<i>Number of calls</i>	0.895	0.384		
<i>Number of call sequences</i>	0.917	0.150	-0.402	-0.223
<i>Total duration of calls</i>	0.842	0.342	0.101	-0.163
<i>Average call duration</i>	-0.201		0.752	0.269
<i>Space between two call sequences</i>	0.897	0.186	-0.378	0.113
<i>Mean interval between call sequences</i>			0.201	0.766
<i>Approach</i>	0.339	-0.185	-0.131	
<i>Response within the first ten seconds</i>		-0.642		

807

808 **Table A3.** Influence of predictors variables on behavioural response after the playback
 809 experiment.

Predictor variable	Estimates	SE	Z	P
I. Number of call sequences				
<i>Intercept</i>	2.30	0.10	a	a
<i>Familiarity (Unfamiliar)</i>	0.04	0.13	0.27	0.790
<i>Forest (Secondary)</i>	0.79	0.16	4.94	<0.001**
<i>Familiarity*Forest</i>	0.53	0.19	2.85	0.004**
II. Latency				
<i>Intercept</i>	0.16	0.02	a	a
<i>Familiarity (Unfamiliar)</i>	-0.05	0.02	-3.2	0.002*
<i>Forest (Secondary)</i>	0.02	0.03	0.88	0.381
<i>Familiarity*Forest</i>	-0.09	0.04	2.46	0.014*
III. Average call duration				
<i>Intercept</i>	2.33	0.16	a	a
<i>Familiarity (Unfamiliar)</i>	-0.56	0.22	-2.59	0.010**

<i>Forest (Secondary)</i>	-0.65	0.30	-2.18	0.029*
<i>Familiarity*Forest</i>	0.47	0.35	1.33	0.184
IV. Mean interval between call sequences				
<i>Intercept</i>	1.97	0.10	a	a
<i>Familiarity (Unfamiliar)</i>	-0.17	0.13	-1.38	0.169
<i>Forest (Secondary)</i>	-0.18	0.18	-1.05	0.293
<i>Familiarity*Forest</i>	0.18	0.22	0.80	0.423

810 ^a Omitted given that there is no interpretable result. () denote the variable level that reflects
811 the estimate when tested against the alternative level: Familiar vs. Unfamiliar, Secondary
812 vs. Primary.

813 * $P < 0.1$ and ** $P < 0.01$ following Bonferroni correction

814

815 **Table A4.** *Number and size of interspecific associations of Diana monkeys for primary and*
816 *secondary forests during the trials; and number of times each species was observed in a*
817 *mixed group with the focal group.*

	Primary forest	Secondary forest
Alone	-	1
Diana monkeys + 1 spp.	18	1
Diana monkeys + 2 spp.	13	2
Diana monkeys + ≥ 3 spp.	12	10
<i>Cercocebus atys</i>	7	6
<i>Cercopithecus campbelli</i>	16	13
<i>Cercopithecus nictans</i>	3	0
<i>Cercopithecus petaurista</i>	11	11
<i>Colobus polykomos</i>	5	0
<i>Procolobus badius</i>	36	3
<i>Procolobus verus</i>	4	6

818

819 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

820

821 **Figure 1.** *Spectrogram of Diana monkey male response to a playback of crowned eagle*
822 *shrieks in Tai Forest, Ivory Coast.*

823

824 **Figure 2.** *Box-plot of the number of call sequences to playbacks of familiar (blue boxes) and*
825 *unfamiliar (yellow boxes) males in both primary and secondary forest of Tai (** $P < 0.01$,*
826 **** $P < 0.001$). Horizontal lines indicate medians, boxes indicate data within the 25th to*
827 *75th percentiles, and whiskers include values that amount to 1.5 times the height of the box,*
828 *black circles indicate outliers. The letters above the boxes indicate Tukey's test significance.*

829

830 **Figure 3.** *Box-plot of response latency to playbacks of familiar (blue boxes) and unfamiliar*
831 *(yellow boxes) males in both primary and secondary forest of Tai. Different letters indicate*
832 *significant difference levels ($P < 0.05$), horizontal lines indicate medians, boxes indicate data*
833 *within the 25th to 75th percentiles, and whiskers include values that amount to 1.5 times the*
834 *height of the box, black circles indicate outliers. The letters above the boxes indicate Tukey's*
835 *test significance*

836

837 **Figure 4.** *Box-plot of average call duration to playbacks of familiar (blue boxes) and*
838 *unfamiliar (yellow boxes) males depending on forest (a) and familiarity (b), (* $P < 0.05$, ***
839 *$P < 0.01$). Horizontal lines indicate medians, boxes indicate data within the 25th to 75th*
840 *percentiles.*

841

842 **Figure A1.** *Distribution map of Diana monkeys in Tai forest with polygons created using the*
843 *MCP method and applied to estimate the minimal sample area in primary (blue) and in*
844 *secondary (red) forest.*

845

Figure 1.

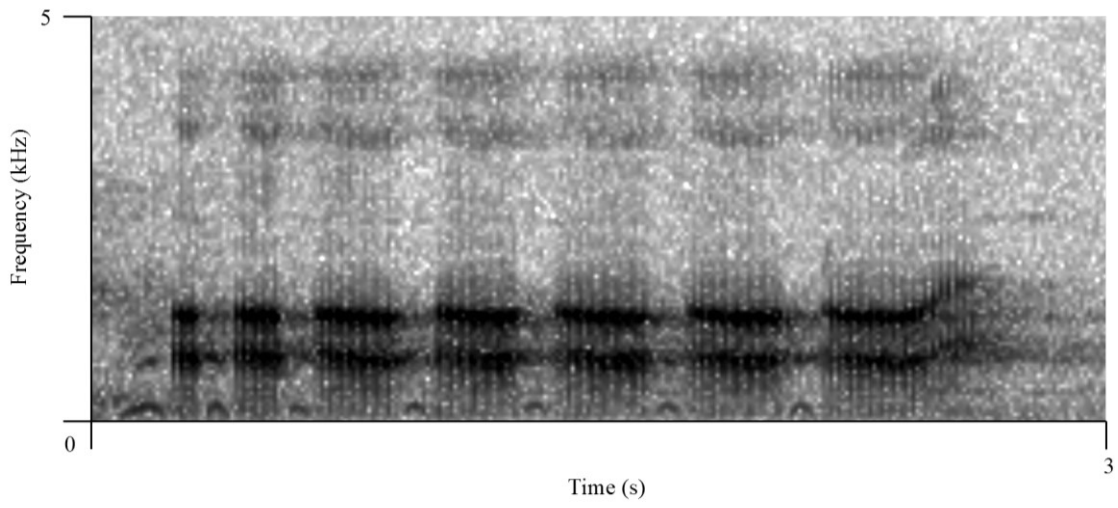


Figure 2.

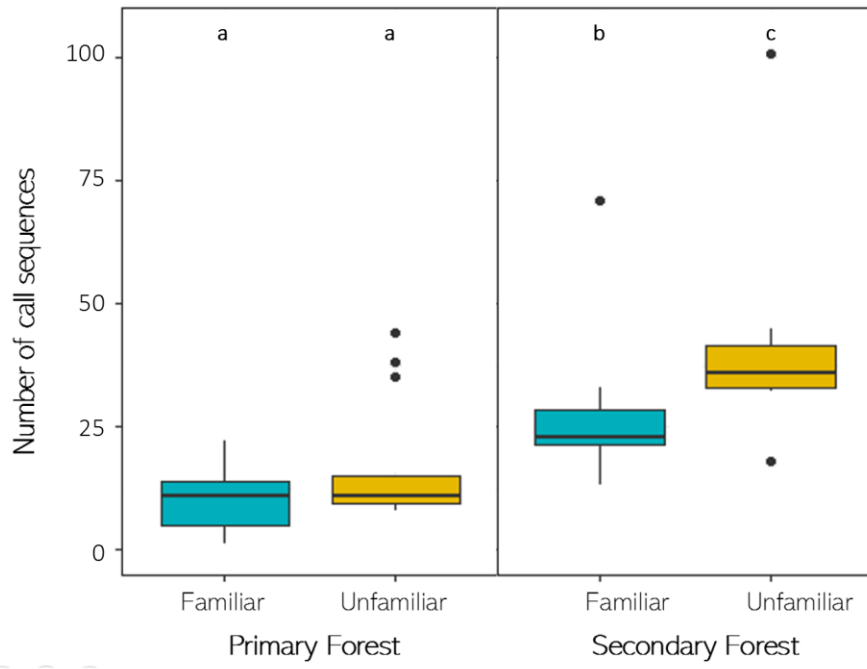


Figure 3.

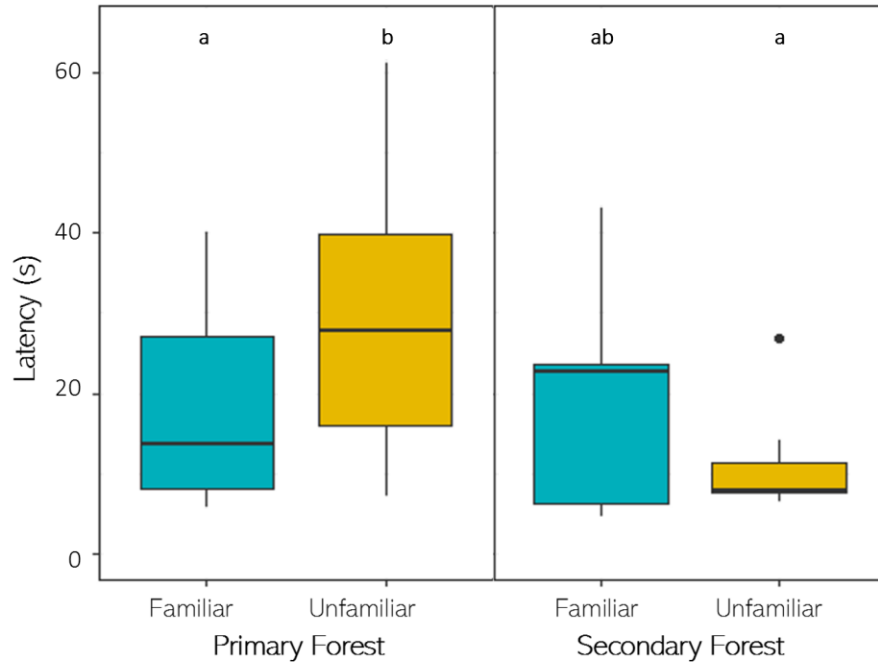


Figure 4.

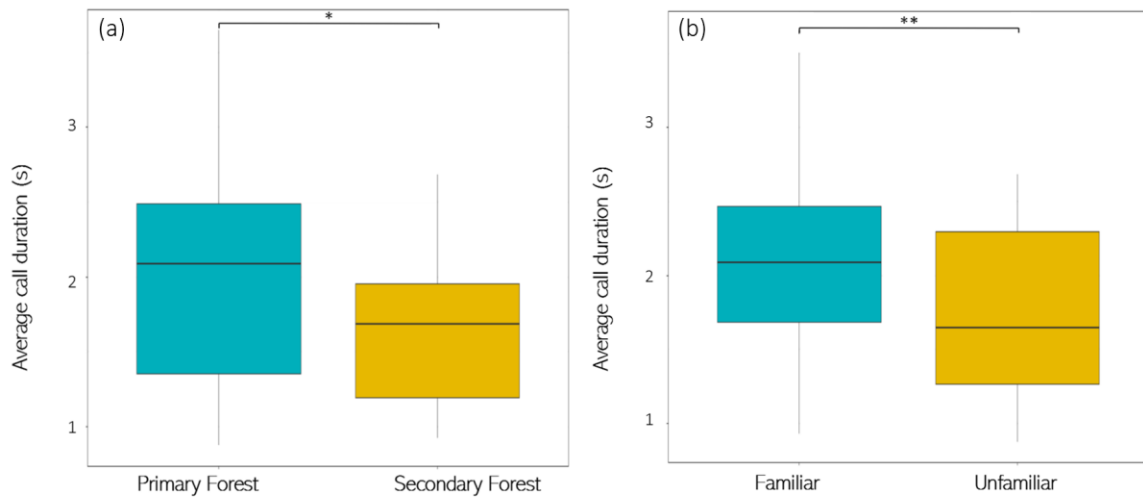


Figure A1.

