



The nutritional ecology of the Zanzibar red colobus (*Piliocolobus kirkii*) within modified habitats

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Friday, June 21st, 1-2pm AEST

Colobines are a folivorous primate with unique specialized anatomical and physiological adaptations that have evolved to facilitate the challenges which come with a heavily plant-based diet. Having such specialized dietary requirements make folivorous primates particularly vulnerable when living in disturbed habitats or captive settings. This study focuses on the endangered Zanzibar red colobus (ZRC) monkey (*Piliocolobus kirkii*), living in a variety of anthropogenically modified habitats within the Jozani-Chwaka Bay National Park, Zanzibar. Some groups have adopted the behaviour of consuming charcoal, which serves as a binding agent to adsorb harmful phenolic compounds found in many introduced plant species. By comparing data on different habitats, feeding plant chemical compositions, diets, behaviours and gut microbiome communities of the ZRC groups who consume charcoal, with those who do not, we gain a better understanding of how these folivores have adapted to cope in heavily modified habitats.

Sofie Semmler is a Ph.D candidate at ANU. Her research investigates the anthropogenic changes to habitats and how this affects primate behaviour, diet and gut health.

Location:
Room 246, Gould Building

Attend via zoom:
<https://tinyurl.com/5dx88d9e>

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