



INFANT PROXIMITIES TO MOTHERS, COMPARING *CEBUS IMITATOR* AND *ALOUATTA PALLIATA*



Asia Rondoni
Melissa Seaboch
Department of Anthropology

INTRODUCTION

➤ Background

- Primates are social animals; they live in groups composed of mothers, their offspring, and variable numbers of male [1].
- Mother-infant-interaction is one of the earliest forms of primate bonding and communication [2].
- After a certain period of time of attachment, the infant begin to become more independent from their mothers, finally reaching adulthood [3]

➤ Species Life History

- Capuchin monkeys (*Cebus imitator*) have a relatively slow life history compared to howler monkeys (*Alouatta palliata*).
- *C. imitator* infants begin to first explore away from their mothers at 3 to 6 months of age and are adults at about 47- 60 months of age [4].
- In comparison, howler monkey infants *A. palliata* begin to explore in the first week or two of life, becoming entirely independent at about 30-36 months of age [5].
- Therefore, *Cebus* infants are dependent longer than *Alouatta* infants.

➤ Research Goal

- The aim of the present study is to compare the amount of time that infant *C. imitator* and *A. palliata* spend near versus far from their mother as a measure of their dependence.

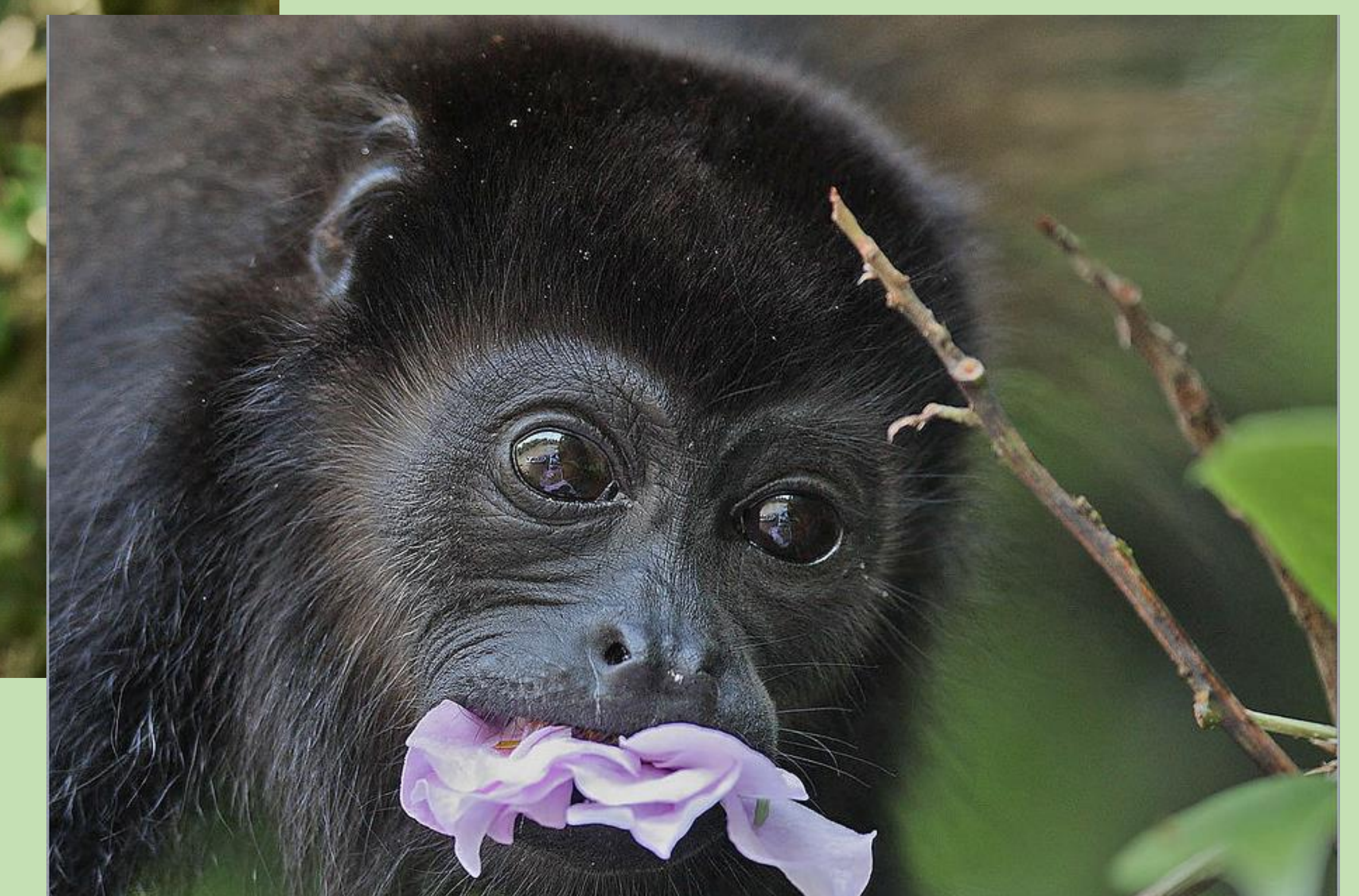
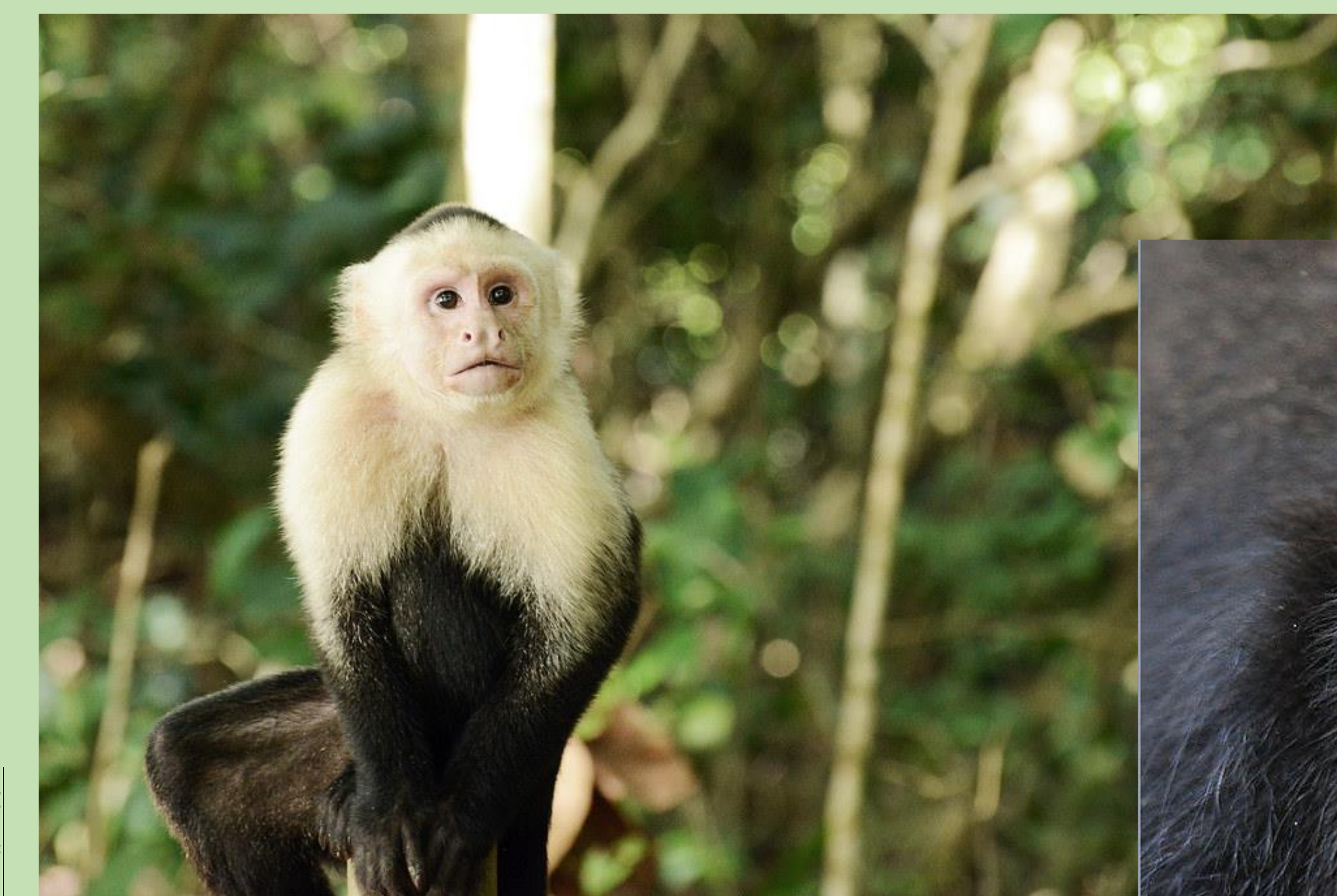
➤ Hypothesis

- I hypothesize that *C. imitator* infants will spend more time in close proximity to their mother compared to *A. palliata* infants.

METHODS

➤ Data Collection Method

- Data will be collected using 10-minute continuous focal sampling of mothers and infants.
- I will record proximity between mothers and infants. Proximity will be recorded as “in contact” (0 meters), “near” (0+-1 meter), “far” (greater than 1 meter). Also, I will record feeding, travel, grooming, and resting.
- The proximities of the two species will be compared with each other as well as with data from other research sites.



➤ Site Description

- This research will be conducted in May 2022 at La Selva Research Station, located in northeastern Costa Rica.

REFERENCE: [1] Harlow, H. F. 1959. Basic Social Capacities of Primates. *Human Biology*, 31(1), 40-53. [2] Verderane MP, Aguiar RM, Izar P. Face-to-face interactions between mothers and female infants in wild bearded capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus libidinosus*). *Developmental Psychobiology*. 2020;62:941-949. [3] Qing Zhao et al. 2008. Weaning Age, Infant Care, and Behavioral Development in *Trachypithecus leucocephalus*. *Int J Primatol* 29:583-591. [4] Dorothy M. Fragaszy et al. 1990. Behavioral Development and Maternal Care in Tufted Capuchins (*Cebus apella*) and Squirrel Monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) from Birth through Seven Months. *Developmental Psychobiology* 24(6):375-393 (1991). [5] Clarke M.R. Behavioral development and socialization of infants in free-ranging group of howling monkeys. *Folia Primatol* 1990; 54:1-15.