

**A Radio-Tracking Study of the Social and Behavioural Ecology of
the Red Slender Loris (*Loris tardigradus tardigradus*) in the
Masmullakele Proposed Forest Reserve, Sri Lanka**

Lilia Bernede

lilia_bernede@yahoo.co.uk

Nocturnal Primate Research Group
Department of Anthropology
School of Social Sciences and Law
Oxford Brookes University
Oxford, OX3 0BP
U.K.

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Following a pilot study between October 2004 and January 2005, behavioural data were collected on a population of *Loris tardigradus tardigradus* in a fragmented and disturbed lowland rainforest in the Matara District, Masmullakele Proposed Forest Reserve (Masmulla PFR) in Sri Lanka. Between August 2005 and August 2006, seventeen adult slender lorises (nine males and eight females) were followed using radio-telemetry, yielding a total of 7120 radio-fixes. Data on home range size were collected on three non-collared juveniles as well. Acoustic data were collected between August 2005 and August 2006, and a total of 180 calls were digitized for analysis. Vegetation surveys were conducted in order to assess the floristic composition and forest structure of Masmulla PFR, and insects were sampled between October 2005 and August 2006 to assess insect diversity and obtain an estimate of abundance at two different sites. In addition, all mammals seen at the site were recorded. Radio-telemetric data indicate that the home ranges of *L. t. tardigradus* are between 1.5 and 12 ha and the size varies more between females than between males. Home range overlap appears to be greater inter-sexually than intra-sexually, with overlap between females being smaller than between males. Evidence from the behavioural and radio-tracking study suggests that the slender lorises at Masmulla PFR may have a dispersed multi-male multi-female type social organisation. In addition, preliminary analysis of acoustic data reveals a much wider and more complex vocal repertoire than previously thought.



Young female *Loris t. tardigradus* at Masmullakele Proposed Forest Reserve