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Abstract

Form and function in the primate skeleton: guenon case studies

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Primate skeletal morphology is influenced by a wide array of factors: evolutionary history, developmental plasticity, geography, environment, social behaviour and ecology (including feeding and locomotion). These factors need to be teased apart in order to understand the relationship between form and function. In this presentation I will review some recent work on guenon craniofacial form that illustrates how multiple factors, only some of which are directly related to function, influence morphology (both size and shape). I will also use the terrestrial guenons as a case study to demonstrate how postcranial morphology in a group of closely related primates adapts in response to different locomotor and habitat pressures.