

guarding during the short mating season by the male predicts monogamy or low rates of EPPs. This assumption was tested in a paternity analysis with the help of microsatellite markers. Ten polymorphic markers were developed and employed in the study. The analysis of the genetic relationships among 19 offspring, their social parents and the individuals from the respective adjacent home-ranges revealed an EPP rate of 10%. This rate is low compared to the sympatric *Phaner furcifer* and *Cheirogaleus medius*, and is possibly a result of vigorous mate guarding by the male.

**Poster: Preliminary results on dry matter intake and body weights of captive blue-eyed black lemurs (*Eulemur macaco flavifrons*)**

Sandra Y. Polowinski & Christoph Schwitzer  
Zoologischer Garten Köln, D; s.polowinsky@worldonline.de

The blue-eyed black lemur (*Eulemur macaco flavifrons*) is a highly endangered, medium-sized lemur from north-west Madagascar with a mean body weight of 1793 g (Terranova & Coffman, 1997). The nutritional ecology of the blue-eyed black lemur has so far not been studied in the wild but, generally, *Eulemur macaco flavifrons* is classified as being mainly frugivorous.

Under captive conditions, lemurs, especially blue-eyed black lemurs, seem to be prone to obesity. Terranova & Coffman (1997) as well as Schwitzer (2003) found obesity rates as high as 80 % in this subspecies. It is unknown whether this high susceptibility to obesity can be exclusively attributed to a high-energy intake and a reduced necessity for locomotion in captivity or, if it is a result of these factors in combination with a comparatively high digestive efficiency.

This study deals with aspects of the feeding ecology of blue-eyed black lemurs kept at different European zoos. Its aim is to reveal possible correlations between food intake, energy and nutrient digestibility and body weight development, and to evaluate factors that influence such correlations.

The poster presented shows preliminary results on the dry matter intake and body weight development of a group of four *Eulemur macaco flavifrons* living at the Cologne Zoo. Overall, more than 70 different food items were fed to the lemurs. The four lemurs each consumed a mean of 56.54 g DM/day. Body weights showed individual variation (adult male  $\pm$  3100 g; adult females  $\pm$  2790 g; juvenile female  $\pm$  1860 g). Samples of feeds and feces are currently being analyzed for gross energy and nutrient content but these data are not yet available.

The underlying study is part of a comprehensive project investigating the feeding ecology of free-ranging blue-eyed black lemurs in the Sahamalaza region of north-west Madagascar. It aims to combine data from captive and wild *E. m. flavifrons* in order to gain a better understanding of the energy metabolism as well as patterns of food selection in this subspecies of lemur.