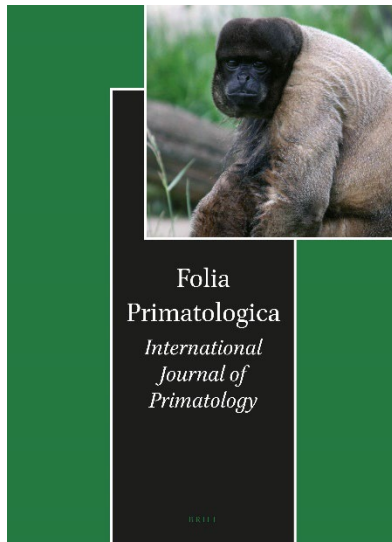




Call for Papers

Special Issue on *Primates and Invertebrate Prey*

Guest Editor: Leila Porter

A central question in biological anthropology is how primates obtain the nutrients they need to survive and reproduce. Primates have evolved a wide variety of dental, anatomical, behavioral and physiological adaptations to consume different types of food including fruits, leaves, exudates, vertebrates, and invertebrates. To date, most researchers have focused their research on primate adaptations for folivory and frugivory with fewer studies concerning adaptations for invertebrate consumption. This is surprising given that primates consume a wide variety of invertebrates including many animals in the Phyla Mollusca and Arthropoda. To prey on these food types, primates require adaptations quite distinct from those needed to consume plant foods. For example, invertebrates have evolved numerous types of defense mechanisms to protect themselves from predators such as camouflage, flight, stings and bites. In addition, many invertebrates have hard exoskeletons which must be shredded by specialized teeth and/or broken using tools. Furthermore, invertebrates may serve as vectors for disease, requiring primates to develop immunological defenses to remain healthy. Despite the potential costs of consuming invertebrates, the potential benefits are great. Invertebrates may provide excellent sources of lipids, proteins, and/or minerals, nutrients that may be scarce or absent in plant foods. In addition, some invertebrates are abundant: for example, insects are one of the most diverse groups of animals on the planet.

In the Special Issue, *Primates and Invertebrate Prey*, we will present a wide range of new research. The articles will cover a broad range of taxa (e.g. tarsiers to orangutans), and foci (e.g. parasites, dental morphology, nutrition, behavior) to highlight the important importance of understanding how invertebrate prey contributes to our understanding of primates as predators. This special issue is particularly important given that primates across the globe are coping with changes in food availability and abundance due to climate change and human destruction and disturbance of primate habitats. Understanding the complex relationships between primate predators and their invertebrate prey is necessary to determine if and how primates will adapt to these changes.

Guest Editor: **Leila Porter, PhD.**, Distinguished Engagement Professor, Department of Anthropology, Northern Illinois University

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