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Work Area: Companion and wild animals

Skills for to design and use tools by Capuchin blonde monkey (Sapajus Flavius) born and kept in captivity

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The making and tools use was a fundamental evolutionary characteristic for the success of several species, so much so that there is evidence that goes back millions of years, even before hominids. The use of tools contributes positively to the improvement of the quality and efficiency of obtaining food resources, especially by primates. In addition to individual skills, it is worth noting that the complex system of communication and interaction between group members ensures the transmission of skills between generations, including in the manufacture and tools use, promoting cumulative culture. Therefore, this study aimed to evaluate the skill of blonde capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus flavius*), born and kept in captivity, to make and use tools to obtain food resources. The experiment was developed with 6 males and 3 females in Dois Irmãos State Park, located in Recife, Pernambuco. The experimental period was 20 days, during which there was daily visual monitoring from 30 minutes, before meal until loss of interest in the object. To evaluate the skill to make and tools use, stones of different sizes and thin tree branches were available, simultaneously with the meal; and to encourage the making and tools use, palm oil fruit (*Elaeis guineensis*), macaíba fruit (*Acrocomia aculeata*), and larvae of mealworms (*Tenebrio molitor*) and rat neonates, deposited on bamboo stakes with lateral holes of about 2 cm. The observations allowed us to conclude that the blonde capuchin monkeys born and kept in captivity, even with the stimuli, Did not demonstrate skill to make or use tools to cracking fruit to access their pulp, to capture the larvae of mealworms or newborn rats, thus giving up on the items, prioritizing fruits and vegetables easily edible. Therefore, we concluded that this species does not use tools, due to the isolation imposed by captivity, or does not show ability in the natural state.

Keywords: Feeding behavior, management, diet, primates, social interaction.

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