

1 **Eat the fruit earlier: Sakis (*Pithecia chrysocephala*) show enhanced temporal fruit**
2 **resource access compared with squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) in an urban**
3 **forest fragment in Brazil**

4 **Running title:** Advantages of the saki feeding system

5

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20 **Abstract**

21 Fruit availability experienced by different primate species is likely to vary due to species-
22 specific fruit use, even within the same habitat and timeframe. Pitheciines, primates of
23 the subfamily *Pitheciinae*, particularly favor the seeds of unripe fruits. Researchers
24 consider this dietary characteristic an adaptation to increase access to fruit resources.
25 However, the relative advantages of pitheciines over sympatric non-pitheciine non-seed-
26 eating primates regarding species-specific fruit availability is not well studied. In a 26-
27 ha forest within the city of Manaus, Amazonian Brazil, we assessed the wild-food feeding
28 behavior of free-ranging groups of golden-faced sakis (*Pithecia chrysocephala*) and
29 sympatric common squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*). We hypothesized that sakis
30 would have greater and more consistent access to wild fruit due to 1) a wider variety of
31 fruit species in their diet, and 2) longer consumption periods per fruit species. We
32 recorded the plant species, part (pulp or seed), and developmental stage (ripe or unripe)
33 of wild fruit consumed by both species. We also conducted monthly fruit censuses of
34 1,000 trees and vines to estimate overall wild fruit abundance. As an indicator of fruit
35 availability, we calculated the proportion of available fruiting trees and vines for each
36 primate species separately based on their observed diet. Throughout the year, the
37 proportion of available trees and vines was significantly higher and more temporally

38 stable for sakis than for squirrel monkeys. This was because sakis used shared fruit
39 species longer than squirrel monkeys by consuming both ripe and unripe fruit. Although
40 sakis had a broader fruit repertoire than squirrel monkeys, it did not contribute to the
41 higher fruit availability. Thus, the fruit feeding system of sakis identifies aspects of a
42 niche that is less restricted in the timing of fruit consumption, which led to a relative
43 advantage in fruit availability.

44

45 **Keywords**

46 Seed predator, fruit availability, fruit choice, South American primate, niche partitioning

47

48 **Abbreviations**

49 INPA: Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia

50 DBH: diameter at breast height

51

52

53 **Introduction**

54 Fruit resources are used by the majority of tropical forest vertebrates, including
55 primates (Fleming et al., 1987, Fleming & Kress, 2011; Fuzessy et al., 2021; Hawes &
56 Peres, 2013). Fruit availability affects many aspects of primate behavior, including
57 feeding, ranging, sociality, and reproduction (van Schaik & Brockman, 2005; Lambert &
58 Rothman, 2015). Therefore, adaptations enhancing access to fruit resources offer
59 evolutionary advantages to primates.

60 Fruit preference varies among primate species (Izawa, 1975; Guillotin et al.,
61 1994; Martins, 2008). As composites, fruits consist of pulp and seed, with different
62 mechanical, chemical, and nutritional properties depending on their developmental stage
63 (Brady, 1987; Janzen, 1983). A single fruit species offers several resources that may only
64 be accessible to a subset of animal species. Therefore, a distinction can be drawn between
65 “fruit abundance” (the estimated number of individual fruits growing on trees in the
66 habitat) and “fruit availability” (the fruit a specific species is capable of consuming based
67 on their morphology, feeding behavior, and the presence of other species in the same
68 habitat). While the abundance of a specific fruit in a habitat remains consistent, the fruit
69 availability experienced by specific species is likely to differ.

70 Pitheciines, primates of the subfamily *Pitheciinae* (*Cacajao*, *Chiropotes*, and

71 *Pithecia*; endemic to the Amazonian and Guianan forests), exhibit unique fruit use. Their
72 morphological traits and feeding behavior allow them to consume both the pulp and seeds
73 of fruits, including unripe ones (Bowler & Bodmer, 2011; Happel, 1982; Norconk, 1996;
74 Peres, 1993; van Roosmalen et al., 1988). Their specialized dental and jaw structure
75 enables them to break open hard pericarps and seed coats (Kinzey, 1992; Ledogar et al.,
76 2018). This adaptation broadens their fruit options beyond the soft and juicy fruits favored
77 by other primates (Charpentier et al., 2015; Norconk & Veres, 2011; Kinzey and Norconk,
78 1990). Additionally, by incorporating both unripe and ripe fruits into their diet, they can
79 extend the availability of each fruit species (Palminteri, 2012). Due to these
80 characteristics, pitheciines possibly enjoy relatively higher fruit availability than
81 sympatric non-seed-eating primate, but it has not been directly examined.

82 Sakis (genus *Pithecia*), the smallest pitheciine, are widespread in northern South
83 America and often occur sympatrically with many other primate species (Happel, 1982;
84 Peres, 1991). Eastern and Central Amazonian sakis (*P. pithecia* and *P. chrysocephala*) are
85 known to use the middle to lower layers of forests (Mittermeier & van Roosmalen, 1981;
86 Oliveira et al., 1985; Setz et al., 2013), where they frequently coexist with squirrel
87 monkeys (genus *Saimiri*) (Rowe & Myers, 2016; Mittermeier & van Roosmalen, 1981;
88 Pinheiro et al., 2013). Squirrel monkeys are insectivore-frugivores, and more than half of

89 their diet consists of fruit or flowers (Lima & Ferrari, 2003). Sakis often chew and destroy
90 the seeds of fruit (Setz 1993, Norconk & Setz, 2013; Norconk, 2020), while squirrel
91 monkeys, like many frugivorous primates, swallow or spit them out (Take, 2017).

92 In this study, we investigated the feeding habits of golden-faced sakis (*Pithecia*
93 *chrysocephala*) and common squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) in a forest fragment in
94 Manaus, Amazonian Brazil. Using interspecific comparisons, we examined the
95 hypotheses that sakis have greater access to wild fruit than sympatric non-seed-eating
96 squirrel monkeys due to: 1) a wider variety of fruit species in sakis' diet, and 2) longer
97 consumption periods per fruit species in sakis. To ensure the validity of our comparisons,
98 we assessed whether the primate species at the study site consumed similar amounts of
99 the regularly provided supplemental food. We investigated the wild fruit choice of the
100 two primate species, including data on the species, part (pulp or seed) and developmental
101 stage of the fruit (unripe or ripe). As an indicator of fruit availability, we calculated the
102 monthly proportion of available fruiting trees or vines for each primate species based on
103 the observed fruit choices and compared them.

104

105 **Methods**

106 **Ethics statement**

107 The study protocol complied with the Guidelines for Field Research established
108 by the Ethics Committee of the Primate Research Institute, Kyoto University, Japan, as
109 well as the American Society of Primatologists Principles for the Ethical Treatment of
110 Non-Human Primates.

111

112 **Study site**

113 The study was conducted at Campus I of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da
114 Amazônia (INPA) in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil (3°09' S, 59°99' W) (Figure 1). The
115 study site is a 26-ha fragment of secondary lowland Amazonian *terra firme* forest
116 enclosed on all sides by tarmacked roads. The site houses four species of free-ranging
117 primates: pied tamarins (*Saguinus bicolor*), common squirrel monkeys, golden-faced
118 sakis, and owl monkeys (*Aotus cf. nigriceps*). The study site is also inhabited by non-
119 primate frugivores, such as iguanas, opossums, and various birds, including macaws and
120 toucans. Mean annual precipitation in Manaus was 3001 mm over the past 30 years
121 (Climate-data.org, n.d.). Rainfall is highly seasonal, with a dry season from June to
122 November, and a rainy season from December to May. Monthly precipitation during the
123 study period followed this pattern, with relatively more rain in September and October
124 and less rain in November and December (Instituto Nacional de Meteorología, n.d.)

125 (Figure 2a). The monkeys have been provided with supplemental food on a daily basis
126 since 1995 as part of the Bosque da Ciência (“grove/forest of science”) environmental
127 education initiative under the leadership of Dr. Marc van Roosmalen. At the time of this
128 study, eight provisioning tables accessible to all monkeys were distributed across campus
129 (Figure 1). Six of these tables provided 1 kg of banana, 500 g of papaya, and 300 g of
130 pineapple pulp (in 5 g pieces), and two tables provided 100 g of coconut flesh (in 1 g
131 pieces). The contents and volume of the food (provided at 07:00 AM daily) remained
132 constant throughout the study period.

133

134 **Vegetation survey**

135 We established 16 transects (5 m wide) at 50 m intervals (Figure 1). The
136 maximum length of each transect was 200 m, excluding buildings, roads, and ponds, to
137 maximize sampling area size. The transects covered a total length of 2844 m and an area
138 of 1.42 ha, accounting for approximately 5.5% of the total campus area. As monkeys at
139 the study site often eat fruits from trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) < 10 cm
140 (e.g., *Siparuna guianensis* or *Leonia cymosa*), we tagged and identified every tree and
141 vine with a DBH \geq 5 cm within the transects. We measured DBH with a tape measure.
142 Basal area (cross-sectional area at breast height) was calculated based on DBH. Plant

143 species were identified with the assistance of Mr. José Ferreira Ramos, a plant specialist
144 at INPA.

145

146 **Fruit census**

147 To estimate wild fruit availability, we randomly selected 1000 tagged trees and
148 vines, regardless of whether they were used by monkeys. Each month, from January 2019
149 to February 2020, we recorded the presence or absence of fruits as well as their
150 developmental stage (ripe or unripe, based on external color and any notable changes
151 between surveys).

152

153 **Study groups**

154 We studied two groups of golden-faced sakis and one group of common squirrel
155 monkeys. Saki Group A comprised 9 individuals: 4 adult males, 2 adult females, and 3
156 female juveniles. At the beginning of the study, Group B had 13 individuals: 5 adult males,
157 3 adult females, 3 juvenile males, and 2 juvenile females; however, 1 adult male left in
158 March 2019, and 1 female was born in October 2019. We defined an “adult” saki as an
159 individual older than 4 years. The squirrel monkey group comprised approximately 50
160 individuals. Their group composition was unclear because of the difficulty in determining

161 the age and sex of young individuals. The two saki groups used the northern and southern
162 halves of the forest, respectively, while the squirrel monkey group used the entire campus
163 area (Take, 2017). All three groups were well-accustomed to the presence of observers at
164 the beginning of the study.

165

166 **Observation of feeding behavior**

167 We conducted full-day observations of each monkey group for 3–4 days per
168 month, from March 2019 to February 2020. We recorded the feeding activities of all
169 visible individuals (except dependent infants) in 10-min intervals via the instantaneous
170 group scan sampling procedure (Altmann, 1974). During the observation, the observer
171 tried to be at the center of the focal group to scan as many individuals as possible. Foods
172 eaten were categorized as follows: provisioned foods, wild fruit pulp, wild fruit seeds,
173 unknown parts of wild fruits, flowers, leaves, insects, and “other” (including plant stems,
174 termite nests, and mother’s milk). For wild fruits containing seeds < 1 mm in size, such
175 as *Cecropia*, we assumed that the pulp was consumed. For wild fruits that include pulp
176 and seeds, the developmental stage (ripe or unripe) of consumed fruit was also recorded.

177

178 **Data analysis**

179 We examined daily diet composition in two ways: by comparing provisioned
180 food versus wild food, and by considering the composition of wild food only. To avoid
181 overrepresenting highly visible feeding behaviors, such as feeding on provisioned foods,
182 we performed all calculations as follows: First, for each scan in which feeding was
183 recorded, we calculated the percentage of each food category by dividing the number of
184 individuals eating the food by the total number of feeding individuals in the scan. Second,
185 for each food category, we calculated the average percentage per scan per day.

186 To assess the dependency of each group on provisioned foods, we conducted a
187 one-way ANOVA using the daily percentage of provisioned foods consumed per group.

188 To compare the number of wild fruit species used between primate species while
189 addressing the variation in sampling effort, we constructed diversity accumulation
190 (rarefaction) curves using the R package iNEXT (ver. 2.0.20; Hsieh et al., 2016) with
191 extrapolation and 95% confidence intervals based on individual abundance data (Chao et
192 al., 2014). To account for interspecific differences in fruit dependency, we used the
193 number of feeding records on wild fruits as the unit for the x-axis instead of the total
194 number of feeding records. Following Chao et al. (2014), we considered the extrapolation
195 endpoint to be double the smallest sample size or equal to the maximum sample size,
196 whichever was greater. We considered the diversity of wild fruit species used to be

197 significantly different when the confidence intervals did not overlap within the range of
198 extrapolation.

199 We compared the composition of the consumed part (seed or pulp) and
200 developmental stage (unripe or ripe) of shared wild fruit species between the primate
201 species using a chi-square test of independence based on the number of feeding records
202 in each category (i.e., ripe pulp, ripe seed, unripe pulp, or unripe seed). We then conducted
203 a residual analysis to identify categories with a higher or lower value than anticipated. To
204 compare the periods when the monkeys shared wild fruit species, we used an exact
205 Wilcoxon signed-rank test with the consumption period (months) for each fruit species as
206 the dependent variable (N = 43 species).

207 To compare wild fruit availability between the two primate species, we
208 calculated the proportion of available fruiting trees and vines based on their observed
209 diets. First, we compiled a list of wild fruits eaten, including the species, parts (pulp or
210 seed), and developmental stage (unripe or ripe). The proportion of available feeding trees
211 and vines was calculated for each month by dividing the number of trees and vines bearing
212 fruit by the total number of trees and vines, while accounting for the developmental stage
213 of the fruit (ripe or unripe). For example, if monkeys ate only the ripe fruits of plant
214 species A, we calculated the proportion of trees/vines bearing ripe fruits. If monkeys ate

215 both unripe and ripe fruits, we calculated the proportion of trees/vines bearing fruit at
216 either of the developmental stages (ripe or unripe). Calculations included all wild fruit
217 species that were used once or more. We used the Exact Wilcoxon signed-rank test to
218 compare groups, with the monthly proportion of available feeding trees and vines as the
219 dependent variable (N = 14). In addition, as an indicator of the consistency of fruit
220 availability, we calculated the coefficient of variation (CV) by dividing the mean by the
221 standard deviation for the monthly proportion of fruiting trees and vines (N = 14) for sakis
222 and squirrel monkeys. The R package cvequality (ver. 0.1.3; Marwick & Krishnamoorthy,
223 2019) was used to test for differences in the CV between primate species. Statistical
224 significance was set at $p < 0.05$. Data are presented as the mean \pm SD.

225

226 **Results**

227 In the vegetation survey, we recorded 1,807 individual trees/vines, which
228 belonged to 223 plant species within 156 genera and 58 families (Table S1). Fabaceae
229 dominated in terms of species and basal area, whereas Arecaceae dominated in terms of
230 the number of individual trees (Table S1). *Euterpe oleracea* (Arecaceae) had the greatest
231 number of individual trees (N = 405), followed by *Siparuna guianensis* (Siparunaceae, N

232 = 68), *Inga alba* (Fabaceae, N = 44), *Attalea maripa* (Arecaceae, N = 38), and *Guatteria*
233 *scytopylla* (Annonaceae, N = 37).

234 Regarding observation of feeding behavior, we conducted 4,523 scans of the saki
235 groups (Group A, N = 2,345; Group B, N = 2,178). On average, 4.9
236 individuals were observed at each scan (Group A, 4.6 individuals; Group B, 5.3
237 individuals). We collected 5,456 feeding records of sakis (Group A, N = 2,563; Group B,
238 N = 2,893), in which we identified 98% of the food categories (97% in Group A, 99% in
239 Group B). For squirrel monkeys, we conducted 2,643 scans. On average, 5.6 individuals
240 were observed during each scan. We collected 3,737 feeding records of squirrel monkeys,
241 in which we identified 99.9% of the food categories.

242

243 **Use of provisioned foods**

244 All monkey groups visited the provisioning tables daily, apart from one day
245 where saki Group A did not visit the tables. Despite this, the mean percentage of
246 provisioned foods in all group diets was < 13% (saki Group A, $10.9 \pm 5.91\%$, N = 40 d;
247 saki Group B, $12.8 \pm 5.15\%$, N = 38 d; squirrel monkeys, $11.4 \pm 4.29\%$; N = 38 d). There
248 were no significant differences in dependency on provisioned foods among the monkey
249 groups (ANOVA: $F = 1.36$, $p = 0.26$). However, there were distinct interspecific

250 differences in the preference for provisioned foods. Sakis consumed all coconut flesh
251 pieces first before eating fruit pulp. On average, coconut flesh accounted for 40.3% of the
252 provisioned foods consumed by sakis (Group A, $43.9 \pm 30.0\%$; Group B, $36.7 \pm 18.0\%$).
253 The squirrel monkeys only used the provisioned fruit pulp (i.e., bananas, papayas, and
254 pineapples) and never used the coconut flesh.

255

256 **Wild fruit use**

257 Excluding the provisioned foods, the two primate species showed different
258 dietary compositions (Table 1). The use of wild fruits (pulp and seeds) accounted for
259 80.9% of the sakis' diet (80.7% in Group A, 81.1% in Group B) and 41.2% of the squirrel
260 monkeys' diet (Table 1). Sakis used 148 fruit species (76 genera in 37 families), and
261 squirrel monkeys used 77 fruit species (52 genera in 31 families) (Table 2). The primates
262 shared 43 fruit species (Table 2).

263 Accounting for differences in sampling effort (Figure 3), sakis fed from
264 significantly more wild fruit species than squirrel monkeys and used more non-shared
265 species (sakis, $N = 105$ spp.; squirrel monkeys, $N = 34$ spp.). Non-shared species used by
266 sakis included *Attalea maripa* and *Oenocarpus bacaba* palms, the ripe pulp of which was
267 their most eaten wild fruit (Table 2).

268 Even within the same wild fruit species, the composition of the developmental
269 stage and part consumed varied between primate species ($\chi^2 = 1,111.7$, $df = 3$, $p < 0.01$,
270 Cramer's $V = 0.629$) (Figure 4). Squirrel monkeys mostly used ripe fruits (pulp = 92.5%,
271 seeds = 6.9%) while sakis ate significantly more unripe seeds (43.2%, residual analysis,
272 adjusted residual = 25.812, $p < 0.001$) and unripe pulp (1.8%, adjusted residual = 3.241,
273 $p < 0.001$) than expected. Sakis ate significantly less ripe pulp than expected (25%,
274 adjusted residual = 32.859, $p < 0.001$) (Figure 4).

275 Sakis used the shared wild fruit species for a longer period than squirrel monkeys
276 (Exact Wilcoxon signed-rank test, $V = 486$, $p < 0.001$, $N = 43$) (Figure 5, Table S2).

277

278 **Comparison of wild fruit availability**

279 Of the 182 wild fruit species used by the monkeys, we calculated the fruit
280 availability (i.e., proportion of available fruiting trees and vines) of 56 species included
281 in the fruit census (Table 2, Figure 6). Among them, 31 species were shared, 20 species
282 were used only by sakis, and five species were used only by squirrel monkeys (Table 2).

283 The proportion of available fruiting trees and vines was higher for sakis than for squirrel
284 monkeys throughout the year (Exact Wilcoxon signed-rank test, $V = 105$, $p < 0.001$, $N =$
285 14) (Figure 6a). The CV was significantly higher for squirrel monkeys than for sakis

286 (sakis: 0.176; squirrel monkeys: 0.433; MSLRT = 7.981; $p = 0.005$) (Figure 6a),
287 indicating that the proportion of available fruiting trees and vines was more stable for
288 sakis during the study period. These results were consistent with that of the shared fruit
289 species in terms of the proportion of available fruiting trees and vines (Exact Wilcoxon
290 signed-rank test, $V = 105$, $p < 0.001$, $N = 14$) and CV (saki: 0.169, squirrel monkey: 0.519,
291 MSLRT = 11.699, $p < 0.001$) (Figure 6b). On the other hand, for non-shared fruit species,
292 there were no differences between the two primate species in the proportion of available
293 fruiting trees and vines (Exact Wilcoxon signed-rank test, $V = 42$, $p = 0.839$, $N = 14$)
294 (Figure 6c) and CV (sakis: 0.454; squirrel monkeys: 0.377; MSLRT = 0.315; $p = 0.575$)
295 (Figure 6c).

296

297 **Discussion**

298 In this study, we hypothesized that sakis would have greater access to wild fruit
299 than squirrel monkeys would, due to 1) a wider variety of fruit species in their diet, and
300 2) a longer consumption period per fruit species. Our data supported hypothesis 2 but did
301 not support hypothesis 1. By consuming wild fruits at both unripe and ripe stages (Table
302 2), sakis used shared fruit species earlier and over a longer period than squirrel monkeys
303 (Figures 5 and 6b). As a result, the proportion of available fruiting trees and vines was

304 significantly higher and more temporally stable for sakis than for squirrel monkeys
305 (Figure 6a). Sakis used a wider variety of fruit species than squirrel monkeys (Figure 3),
306 but it did not contribute to the higher fruit availability (Figure 6c).

307

308 **Effect of provisioned foods**

309 More than 85% of the daily diet of sakis and squirrel monkeys at this study site
310 consisted of wild foods. For both primate species, the composition of the wild foods
311 resembled those reported in non-provisioned conditions (Table 1; Norconk & Conklin-
312 Brittain, 2004; Zimble-DeLorenzo & Stone, 2011). Furthermore, squirrel monkeys in
313 this study used 77 wild fruit species, surpassing previous records in non-provisioned
314 populations: 23 plant species during 6 months (Lima and Ferrari, 2003), 68 plant species
315 during 12 months (Stone, 2007), and 23 plant species during 8 months (Pinheiro et al.,
316 2013). This suggests that our feeding data for squirrel monkeys was sufficient to cover
317 the potential food fruit species. Nevertheless, sakis had a broader fruit repertoire. This
318 evidence, combined with the fact that the two species consumed roughly the same amount
319 of provisioned foods (interspecific comparisons were conducted only on wild fruits)
320 indicates that the results of this study were not significantly affected by the availability of
321 provisioned foods.

322

323 **Advantages of eating fruits earlier**

324 Sakis exhibited a prolonged use of shared wild fruit species compared to squirrel
325 monkeys (Figure 5, Table S2). This factor contributed significantly to the higher
326 proportion of wild fruit trees available for sakis throughout the study period compared to
327 squirrel monkeys (Figure 6b). For example, sakis used the fruits of *Pouteria caimito*
328 (Sapotaceae) for seven months, three of which were spent consuming only unripe seeds
329 (Table S2). In contrast, squirrel monkeys only used *P. caimito* for the three months that
330 they provided ripe pulp (Table S2). Regarding the fruit of *Lindackeria paludosa*
331 (Achariaceae), squirrel monkeys only ate the visible aril of ripe fruits, which naturally
332 split open, which limited the duration of fruit use to two months. In contrast, sakis ate *L.*
333 *paludosa* seeds throughout the year by opening the fruits before they dehisced. Depending
334 on the volume of fruits available and the number of consumers, destroying unripe fruits
335 by foraging for seeds sakis could directly impact the future availability of ripe fruit for
336 squirrel monkeys.

337 Sakis are not only adapted to eating young seeds, they may also be adapted to
338 consuming unripe pulp compared to other primate species. In addition to the fact that
339 sakis ate some unripe pulp (Table 2, Figure 4), it is possible that some of the “ripe pulp”

340 was less mature than that eaten by squirrel monkeys. For example, the most frequently
341 eaten wild fruit item by sakis was the “ripe” pulp of *Attalea maripa*—a species that
342 squirrel monkeys never ate at our study site. However, *A. maripa* was the most important
343 fruit for squirrel monkeys at other sites (Boinski, 1999; Pinheiro et al., 2013; Stone, 2007).
344 According to Stone (2006, 2007), squirrel monkeys eat *A. maripa* pulp when the fruits
345 are mature enough to be removed from the tree or after the fruits fall to the ground. At
346 our study site, the sakis spent a lot of time on the fruiting *A. maripa* trees and seemed to
347 use all the fruit before they matured.

348 Norconk (2020) and Cunningham (2006) also reported that sakis used fruits
349 (*Pradosia caracasana* and *Licania discolor*) at several developmental stages (young
350 seeds, mature pulp, and old seeds). Therefore, the fruit feeding system of sakis identifies
351 aspects of a niche that is less restricted in the timing of fruit consumption. This
352 generalized explanation provides a broader perspective on the ecology and evolution of
353 pitheciines, going beyond their classification as mere seed eaters.

354

355 **Importance of eating a diversity of fruit species**

356 We hypothesized that the broader range of fruit species in the saki diet
357 compared with squirrel monkeys would lead to a higher proportion of available fruit

358 trees for sakis. To investigate this, we compared the number of fruit species used (Figure
359 3) and the proportion of available trees of non-shared fruit species between sakis and
360 squirrel monkeys (Figure 6c). Contrary to our expectations, the difference in the number
361 of fruit species used by sakis and squirrel monkeys did not significantly contribute to the
362 higher proportion of fruit trees available to sakis compared to those available to squirrel
363 monkeys (Figure 6c). This might be because the availability of shared fruit species was
364 high at our study site. For example, fruits of the top three dominant species, *Euterpe*
365 *oleracea*, *Siparuna guianensis*, and *Inga alba*, provided food for both primate species
366 (Table 2 and Table S1). In addition, many fruit trees, such as *Mangifera indica* or *Inga*
367 *edulis*, may have been planted or selectively grown for the benefit of humans, but are also
368 commonly used by monkeys. For these reasons, at our study site, sakis eating shared fruits
369 in an earlier developmental stage had a more significant effect on differentiating species
370 diets than that of the fruit diversity. It remains possible that having access to a broader
371 variety of fruit species could yield significant advantages in other environments with
372 different compositions of plant species.

373 It is important to note that the fruit choice can be affected by various ecological
374 and social factors. The body mass of squirrel monkeys (< 1 kg) is about half of that of
375 sakis and, as is typical for primates of such a small size, insects make up a large proportion

376 of their diet (Zimble-DeLorenzo & Stone, 2011). The group size of squirrel monkeys
377 was much larger, and more dispersed during foraging, than that of sakis. Future studies
378 should consider how these factors affect foraging behavior between seed- and non-seed-
379 eating primates, especially when comparing interspecific comparisons of multiple
380 middle-sized frugivorous primates, to elucidate the uniqueness of the pitheciine feeding
381 system.

382

383 **Conclusion**

384 In this study, we demonstrated that wild fruit availability was higher and more
385 temporally stable for golden-faced sakis than for common squirrel monkeys: sakis had a
386 longer consumption period for each fruit species than squirrel monkeys. Sakis used
387 shared wild fruit species earlier and for longer periods than squirrel monkeys by using the
388 fruits both at unripe and ripe stages. Thus, the saki fruit feeding system allows them to
389 exploit a wider breadth of fruit species and extend the timing of fruit consumption, which
390 seems to lead to a relative advantage in fruit availability compared with other sympatric
391 primates.

392

393 **Acknowledgments**

394 We would like to express our gratitude to Prof. Vera da Silva and Prof. Shiro Koshima for
395 providing MT with the research opportunity that resulted from the Field Museum Project
396 supported by JICA/JST SATREPS, #1302260. We thank all members of the Field
397 Museum Project for their multifaceted support, and Mr. Gleison Pereira Viana and Mr.
398 José Ferreira Ramos for greatly assisting MT during fruit collection and plant
399 identification. We are grateful to the animal keepers at INPA for their enduring
400 cooperation and the students at the Grupo de Pesquisa de Mamíferos Amazônicos (INPA)
401 for aiding MT. We thank our colleagues at the Primate Research Institute and Wildlife
402 Research Center, Kyoto University, as well as Drs. Goro Hanya, Shun Hongo, Susumu
403 Tomiya, Marilyn Norconk, and two anonymous reviewers who spent considerable time
404 reviewing the earlier versions of our manuscript and provided constructive comments.
405 This project was funded by the Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife
406 Science, Kyoto University, Japan, and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
407 (JSPS) KAKENHI, #JP19J15237. This work was also supported by the JSPS Bilateral
408 Program #JPJSBP120229921. We would like to thank Editage (www.editage.com) for
409 English language editing. The authors declare no conflicts of interest. The data supporting
410 the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable
411 request.

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Tables

Table 1. Average daily diet composition of wild foods only in golden-faced sakis and common squirrel monkeys. Provisioned foods were excluded from calculations.

		Saki Group A (N = 40 d)	Saki Group B (N = 38 d)	Common squirrel monkey (N = 38 d)
Fruit	Pulp	28.3 ± 14.4% [†]	36.8 ± 15.4%	36.7 ± 15.6%
	Seeds	45.5 ± 18.4%	34.6 ± 15.1%	3.0 ± 6.4%
	Unknown part of fruits	6.9 ± 5.9%	9.7 ± 10.1%	1.5 ± 2.2%
Non-fruit	Flowers	3.1 ± 2.7%	1.8 ± 3.0%	8.0 ± 8.6%
	Leaves	10.6 ± 9.3%	11.0 ± 7.7%	0.09 ± 0.6%
	Insects	0.0	0.0	46.8 ± 13.1%
	Others	5.7 ± 4.5%	6.1 ± 5.1%	3.9 ± 5.9%

[†]Mean ± SD per day.

Table 2. List of fruit species used by the two primate species (Arranged by the number of feeding records in sakis).

Plant species	Family	Number of monitored trees [†]	Number of feeding records per fruit		Eaten part and ripeness [‡]	
			saki	squirrel monkey	saki	squirrel monkey
<i>Attalea maripa</i>	Arecaceae	17	486	0	Rp (486)	
<i>Oenocarpus bacaba</i>	Arecaceae	17	310	0	Rp (309), Ruk (1)	
<i>Lindackeria paludosa</i> [§]	Achariaceae	15	296	3	Us (171), Rs (111), UKs (11), UKuk (3)	Rp (3)
<i>Pouteria macrophylla</i>	Sapotaceae	25	217	1	Us (178), Rp (10), Rs(10), Ruk (8), UKs (5), Up (5), Uuk (1)	Rp (1)
<i>Siparuna guianensis</i>	Siparunaceae	40	197	90	Rs (142), Us (47), UKuk (6), UKs(2)	Rs (80), Rp (4), UKuk (3), Ruk (2)
<i>Inga edulis</i>	Fabaceae	3	180	85	Rp (70), Us (64), Uuk (21), Rs(16), Ruk (8), UKuk (1)	Rp(85)
<i>Pourouma guianensis</i>	Urticaceae	14	149	56	Rs (88), Us (34), Ruk (16), Rp (7), UKuk (3), UKs (1)	Rp (56)
<i>Protium spruceanum</i>	Burseraceae	1	128	0	UKs (55), Us (37), Ruk (34), UKuk (2)	
<i>Hevea brasiliensis</i>	Euphorbiaceae	9	125	0	Rs (125)	
<i>Pouteria caimito</i>	Sapotaceae	4	83	75	Rp (34), Us (27), Ruk (10), Rs (9), UKuk (2), Uuk (1)	Rp (75)

<i>Inga heterophylla</i>	Fabaceae	3	82	65	Rp (48), Us (20), UKuk (8), Ruk (3), UKp (1), Rs (1)	Rp(65)
<i>Arrabidaea prancei</i>	Bignoniaceae		68	0	Us(62), UKs (6)	
<i>Pseudima frutescens</i>	Sapindaceae		66	0	Up (58), Rp (7), UKuk (1)	
<i>Perebea mollis</i>	Moraceae		56	3	Us (48), Rs (5), UKs (2), UKuk (1)	Rp (3)
<i>Deguelia amazonica</i>	Fabaceae		56	0	Us (47), Rs (9)	
<i>Mangifera indica</i>	Anacardiaceae	1	55	75	Rp (52), UKp (2), Up (1)	Rp (75)
<i>Helicostylis tomentosa</i>	Moraceae	16	55	3	Us (20), Ruk (17), Rp (11), Rs (4), Uuk (1), UKs (1), UKuk (1)	Rp (3)
<i>Aparisthium cordatum</i>	Euphorbiaceae	4	53	0	Us (52), Rs (1)	
<i>Lecythis lurida</i>	Lecythidaceae	1	51	1	Rs (28), Us (12), Ruk (10), Rp (1)	Rp (1)
<i>Protium apiculatum</i>	Burseraceae		49	0	Ruk (45), Rp (3), UKuk (1)	
<i>Simarouba amara</i>	Simaroubaceae	1	49	0	Us (49)	
<i>Ocotea grandifolia</i>	Lauraceae		46	1	Us (46)	Rp (1)
<i>Talisia macrophylla</i>	Sapindaceae	4	43	0	Us (41), Rs (2)	
<i>Ficus maxima</i>	Moraceae	13	42	9	UKp (30), UKuk (8), Uuk (3), Rpulp (1)	Ruk (6), UKp (3)
<i>Vouarana guianensis</i>	Sapindaceae	5	41	8	Rp (30), Us (5), Uuk (4), Up (1), UKuk (1)	Rp (8)
<i>Alchornea discolor</i>	Euphorbiaceae		34	0	Us (23), Rs (11)	
<i>Guarea silvatica</i>	Meliaceae	2	33	0	Us (22), Rp (7), Rs (4)	
<i>Virola polyneura</i>	Myristicaceae		32	4	Rp (32)	Rp (4)

<i>Bellucia grossularioides</i>	Melastomataceae	32	2	Rp(31), Up (1)	Rp (2)	
<i>Inga alba</i>	Fabaceae	19	31	171	Rp (17), Ruk (6), Us (6), UKuk (2)	Rp (171)
<i>Pogonophora schomburgkiana</i>	Peraceae	14	31	0	Us (26), Uuk (5)	
<i>Brosimum guianense</i>	Moraceae	8	29	0	Us (26), Uuk (2), Rp (1)	
<i>Matayba arborescens</i>	Sapindaceae	7	27	0	Rp (19), Up (6), Uuk (2)	
<i>Syzygium cumini</i>	Myrtaceae	3	26	52	Rp (26)	Rp (52)
<i>Paullinia rugosa</i>	Sapindaceae	26	1		Rp (20), Ruk (3), Us (3)	Rp (1)
<i>Lacunaria jenmanii</i>	Quiinaceae	26	0		Rp (12), Us (8), Ruk (5), Rs (1)	
<i>Coccoloba parimensis</i>	Polygonaceae	25	25		Rp(25)	Rp (25)
<i>Bocoa viridiflora</i>	Fabaceae	8	23	2	Up (13), Us (9), Ruk (1)	Ruk (2)
<i>Passiflora</i> sp.	Passifloraceae	23	0		Us (9), Rp (7), Rs (2), Uuk (2), Ruk (1), UKs (1), UKuk (1)	
<i>Myrcia fallax</i>	Myrtaceae	15	22	34	Us (17), UKuk (4), Rp (1)	Rp (31), UKuk (3)
<i>Guarea</i> sp.	Meliaceae	22	0		Rp (11), UKuk (7), Up (2), UKp (2)	
Unknown species 1		19	0		Us (11), UKs (8)	
<i>Annona mucosa</i>	Annonaceae	3	17	110	Rp (12), Up (4), UKp (1)	Rp (110)
<i>Trichilia micrantha</i>	Meliaceae	17	0		Us (9), UKuk (8)	
<i>Casearia javitensis</i>	Salicaceae	16	1		Rp (8), Ruk (8)	Rp (1)
<i>Clitoria racemosa</i>	Fabaceae	10	15	0	Us (14), Rs (1)	
<i>Mabea caudata</i>	Euphorbiaceae	1	15	0	Us (13), Rs (2)	
<i>Trymatococcus amazonicus</i>	Moraceae	3	14	0	Us (13), Rs (1)	

Unknown species 2			14	0	Us(14)	
<i>Sorocea guilleminiana</i>	Moraceae		13	5	Rp (13)	Rp (5)
<i>Compsoeura ulei</i>	Myristicaceae		13	0	Rs (6), Us (4), Rp (1)	
<i>Dichapetalum rugosum</i>	Dichapetalaceae		13	0	Rp (7), UKp (2), UKuk (2), Ruk (1), Up (1)	
<i>Ocotea ujumari</i>	Lauraceae	10	12	0	Us (12)	
<i>Pouteria</i> sp.	Sapotaceae		12	0	Rp (12)	
Unknown species 3			12	0	Us (12)	
<i>Simarouba</i> sp.	Simaroubaceae		12	0	Us (12)	
<i>Lacmellea arborescens</i>	Apocynaceae	4	11	2	Uuk (7), UKp (3), Rp (1)	Rp (2)
<i>Inga</i> sp.1	Fabaceae		11	0	Uuk (11)	
<i>Pouteria cladantha</i>	Sapotaceae		11	0	Rp (10), Ruk (1)	
<i>Sorocea muriculata</i>	Moraceae	1	11	0	Us (11)	
<i>Eugenia patrisii</i>	Myrtaceae	3	10	5	Us (8), Rp (1), Ruk (1)	Rp(5)
<i>Cynometra bauhiniifolia</i>	Fabaceae		10	0	Us (10)	
<i>Lecythis prancei</i>	Lecythidaceae	7	10	0	Us(10), Rs (1)	
<i>Licania macrophylla</i>	Chrysobalanaceae		10	0	Us (10)	
<i>Socratea exorrhiza</i>	Arecaceae		10	0	Rp (10)	
Unknown species 4			9	0	UKs (6), UKuk (3)	
<i>Couepia ulei</i>	Chrysobalanaceae		8	0	Rp (7), Us (1)	
<i>Ipomoea mauritiana</i>	Convolvulaceae		8	0	Rs (4), Us (2), UKuk (2)	
<i>Swartzia tomentifera</i>	Fabaceae		8	0	UKuk (4), Uuk (4)	
<i>Inga</i> sp.2	Fabaceae		8	0	Rp (7), Rs (1)	
<i>Matayba oligandra</i>	Sapindaceae		7	3	Rp (6), UKp (1)	Rp (3)
<i>Inga obtusata</i>	Fabaceae		7	0	Us (7)	
<i>Lecythis pisonis</i>	Lecythidaceae		7	0	Rs (3), Ruk (3), Rp(1)	
<i>Eugenia puniceifolia</i>	Myrtaceae		6	19	Rp (5), Uuk (1)	Rp (19)

<i>Anemopaegma oligoneuron</i>	Bignoniaceae		6	0	Us (6)	
<i>Xylopia sericea</i>	Annonaceae	2	6	0	Us (4), UKs (2)	
<i>Talisia esculenta</i>	Sapindaceae	2	5	132	Rp (5)	Rp (132)
<i>Leonia cymosa</i>	Violaceae	6	5	17	Rp (4), Up (1)	Rp(17)
<i>Euterpe oleracea</i>	Areaceae	222	5	11	Up(3), Rp (2)	Rp (11)
<i>Anacardium occidentale</i>	Anacardiaceae	1	5	1	Rp (4), Us (1)	Rp (1)
<i>Strychnos amazonica</i>	Loganiaceae		5	0	UKuk (3), Us (2)	
Unknown species 5			5	0	UKp (5)	
<i>Inga umbratica</i>	Fabaceae	1	4	1	Rp (4)	Rp (1)
<i>Syzygium malaccense</i>	Myrtaceae		4	1	Rp (3), Up (1)	Rp (1)
<i>Garcinia madruno</i>	Clusiaceae	2	4	0	Rp (2), Up (2)	
<i>Gutteria scytopylla</i>	Annonaceae	25	4	0	Rp (4)	
<i>Paypayrola grandiflora</i>	Violaceae		4	0	Us (4)	
<i>Schefflera morototoni</i>	Araliaceae	6	4	0	UKs (3), UKuk (1)	
Unknown species 6			4	0	UKs (4)	
Unknown species 7			4	0	Us (4)	
Unknown species 8			4	0	Us (4)	
<i>Miconia regelii</i>	Melastomataceae	4	3	29	Rp (3)	UKp (15), Rp (14)
<i>Bocageopsis multiflora</i>	Annonaceae	6	3	6	Rp (3)	Rp (6)
<i>Casearia arborea</i>	Salicaceae	4	3	3	UKuk (3)	Ruk (3)
<i>Oenocarpus minor</i>	Areaceae		3	2	Rp (3)	Rp (2)
<i>Tapirira guianensis</i>	Anacardiaceae	12	2	18	Uuk (2)	Rp (12), Up (5), UKp (1)
<i>Garcinia brasiliensis</i>	Clusiaceae		1	45	Rp (1)	Rp (45)
<i>Cordia bicolor</i>	Ehretiaceae	14	1	12	Rp (1)	Rp (12)
<i>Euterpe precatoria</i>	Areaceae	10	1	3	Rp (1)	Rp (3)
<i>Cissus verticillata</i>	Vitaceae		0	51		Rp (51)
<i>Muntingia calabura</i>	Muntingiaceae		0	27		UKp (12), Up (10), Rp (5)
<i>Zanthoxylum rhoifolium</i>	Rutaceae	3	0	27		Rs (17), UKs (6), Ruk (3)

<i>Psidium guajava</i>	Myrtaceae		0	26	Rp (26)
<i>Psidium</i> sp.	Myrtaceae		0	20	Rp (19), UKuk (1)
<i>Spondias mombin</i>	Anacardiaceae	11	0	20	Rp (20)
<i>Musa</i> sp.	Musaceae		0	17	Rp (16), Up (1)
<i>Morus alba</i>	Moraceae		0	15	Rp (14), UKuk (1)
<i>Astrocaryum aculeatum</i>	Areaceae	8	0	9	Rp (8), UKp (1)
<i>Inga lateriflora</i>	Fabaceae		0	9	Rp (9)
<i>Mezia includens</i>	Malpighiaceae		0	9	Us (6), UKs (3)
<i>Erythroxylum macrophyllum</i>	Erythroxylaceae	6	0	8	Rp (8)
Unknown species 46			0	7	UKuk (7)
Unknown species 47			0	7	UKuk (7)
<i>Inga melinonis</i>	Fabaceae		0	6	Rp (6)
Unknown species 48			0	5	Rp
<i>Carica papaya</i>	Caricaceae	3	0	4	Rp (4)
<i>Ocotea oblonga</i>	Lauraceae		0	4	Rp (4)
<i>Ocotea</i> sp.1	Lauraceae		0	4	Ruk (4)
49 more non-shared species for saki [†]			77	0	
15 more non-shared species for squirrel monkeys			0	27	
Total			3,973	1,494	

[†]Plant species with these numbers were included in the 1,000 trees/vines monitored in the fruit census and used for the calculation of species-specific fruit availability.

[‡]“U,” “R,” and “UK” represent unripe, ripe, and unknown ripeness, respectively; “s,” “p,” and “uk” represent seed, pulp, and unknown part, respectively. The numbers within parentheses represent the number of feeding records for each fruit item.

[§]43 species in **bold type** are shared fruit species (eaten by both primate species).

[¶]Plant species that were used less than four times by only one primate species were grouped together.

Figure legends

Figure 1. Campus I (circled by a dashed line) of the Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia (INPA) in Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil (3°09'S, 59°99'W) (Map data: Google, Image[©] 2022 Maxar Technologies, Image[©] 2022 CNES/Airbus). The provisioning tables for monkeys are represented by white triangles (tables for cut bananas, papayas, and pineapples) and circles (tables for coconut flesh). Yellow horizontal lines represent the 16 fruit census transects.

Figure 2. Monthly changes in environmental factors at the study site from January 2019 to February 2020. a) Monthly precipitation and mean temperature. The data were obtained from the Banco de Dados Meteorológicos on the website of the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INMET). b) Proportion of fruiting trees and vines recorded in the monthly fruit census, regardless of whether they were used by monkeys.

Figure 3. Rarefaction curves (solid lines) and extrapolation (dashed lines) of wild fruit species eaten by golden-faced sakis (*Pithecia chrysocephala*) and common squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*). The 95% confidence intervals (shaded regions) were obtained by a bootstrap method with 100 replications.

Figure 4. Proportion of the eaten fruit part and developmental stage for the shared wild fruit species in golden-faced sakis (*P. chrysocephala*) and common squirrel monkeys (*S.*

sciureus). Only results of feeding records including both the developmental stage and the fruit part are shown (N = 1,656 records for sakis and N = 1,154 records for squirrel monkeys).

Figure 5. Number of months that each primate species used each shared fruit species.

Each point represents a fruit species (N = 43).

Figure 6. Proportion of available fruiting trees and vines for golden-faced sakis (*P.*

chrysocephala) and common squirrel monkeys (*S. sciureus*). We separately showed the

a) total proportion, the proportion for b) shared fruit species, and c) Non-shared fruit

species. . Comparison of availability of shared species in graph b) shows the differences

caused by the different consumption periods for the same fruit species. Comparison of

availability of non-shared fruit species in graph c) shows differences caused by using fruit

species that are not used by the other primate species.