

Impacts of Seasonal Variation on Habitat Selection by Sichuan Golden Snub-nosed Monkey: A Case Study of Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve

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Abstract: The habitat selection for a group of *R. roxellana* at Tangjiahe National Nature Reserve during two seasons of 2010 was analysed with direct observation and vegetation survey. Eleven ecological variables were measured in seventy-five sites using 20 m 20 m plots. The research aims to document the impacts of seasonal variation in *R. roxellana* habitat selection. *R. roxellana* selected the deciduous broadleaf forest and mixed conifer-broadleaf forest for both seasons and have extended the altitude range between less than 2000 m and beyond 2500 m during the winter, and they restrict it to 2000~2500 m for the summer season. *R. roxellana* have selected as winter habitat trees with DBH of 11~30 cm with a height of 10~29 m, canopy coverage of 25~49%, with a water distance of 0~300 m. However, during summer *R. roxellana* preferred canopy coverage of 25 to 74%. The water source was at <100 m and trees with DBH of 0~10 cm, 11~20 cm, and height of 10~19 m. The seasonal availability of food resources was the main factor influencing the habitat selection behavior of *R. roxellana*.

Keywords: Climate change, Endangered species, Rhinopithecus roxellana, Primate