

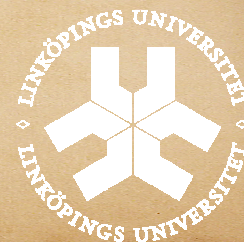
Food preferences in relation to nutrient composition in captive white-handed gibbons, *Hylobates lar*



Final thesis. International Master Programme Applied Biology 2008.

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Aim

To assess food preferences in captive white-handed gibbons and to analyse whether these preferences correlate with nutrient composition

Material & Method

- ☛ Three animals
- ☛ Ten types of food
- ☛ Two-alternative choice test



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Results

☛ Rank order of preference: Grape > banana > fig > apple > pear > cantaloup melon > carrot > tomato > cucumber > avocado.

☛ Food preference significantly correlated with the total carbohydrate, fructose and glucose content of the foods (Table 1)

Table 1 – Spearman rank-order correlation between food preference ranking and nutritional content

Macronutrients	P	Carbohydrates	P
Energy	n.s.	Sucrose	n.s.
Water	n.s.	Fructose	< 0,01
Protein	n.s.	Glucose	< 0,01
Lipids	n.s.		
Carbohydrates	< 0,01		
Dietary fiber	n.s.		
Minerals	n.s.		

Conclusion

White-handed gibbons are selective energy feeders that prefer to meet their daily required metabolic energy by consuming carbohydrate rich fruits.