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Mutual Genital Touch in the Mahale M-Group Chimpanzees

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INTRODUCTION

Mutual genital touch (MGT) is a type of greeting behavior, which was first documented in the chimpanzees of Bossou, Guinea (Nakamura & Nishida 2006). MGT occurs when two female chimpanzees meet after some time apart, they approach and closely pass by each other, pause with one's face close to the other's hip, and then they simultaneously and gently touch each other's genital area from underneath with the outer hand (*ibid*.; Figure 1). Nakamura and Nishida (2006) suggested that MGT is a type of greeting behavior between females as its context is similar to some other greeting behaviors, such as peering into the face, kissing, or extending a hand. They also stated that MGT had never been observed at Mahale. In addition, this behavior has not been reported from other