

**BIRTH PATTERNS IN CAPTIVE BROWN
BUSHBABIES (*Galago garnettii*)**

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SUMMARY

BIRTH PATTERNS IN CAPTIVE BROWN BUSHBABIES

(Galago garnettii)

Captive Brown Bushbabies (Galago garnettii) over a period of six years in captivity have been analysed. It has been found that births occur in every month of the year though the overall pattern indicates peaks in April and May and October to December. It is inferred that BY JULIUS A. OGENG'O are seasonal breeders. The possible determinants of reproductive seasonality are discussed.

A REVIEW PAPER IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE OF BSc - ANATOMY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI - 1985/86

INTRODUCTION

SUMMARY

Previous studies of primate reproduction...
The birth patterns of captive brown bushbabies (Galago garnettii) over a period of six years in captivity have been analysed. It has been found that births occur in every month of the year though the overall pattern indicates peaks in April and May and October to December. It is inferred that brown bush babies in captivity are aseasonal breeders. The possible determinants of reproductive seasonality are discussed.

...seasonally so that either the infant or the nursing mother has sufficient food resources, and this is directly or indirectly influenced by climatic variables. The smaller species on the other hand are perhaps more dependent on pressure to maximize the output of offspring to overcome the high mortality rates, and thus tend to breed seasonally. While the reproductive physiology of other bushbabies like the Galago senegalensis senegalensis (SUTHER, 1964) and Galago crassicaudatus (GERARD, 1932; BRADLEY, 1974; VAN HORN and ZATWEL, 1975) has been studied, little attention has been paid to reproduction in the Galago garnettii.

This study is aimed at throwing some light on birth patterns in captive Galago garnettii, and forms part of a more comprehensive investigation on the various reproductive parameters of this species of bushbabies (SUTHER et al, 1986).