

How do I talk to monkeys?

Contributed by Administrator
Wednesday, 03 February 2010
Last Updated Friday, 05 February 2010

The way in which to communicate with each monkey is a bit like human languages. Wild Guenons able to build simple "sentence", using a combination of several basic exhortations.

Researchers at the Universite Rennes, France, St Andrews in Scotland and the Abidjan-Cocody in Côte d'Ivoire conducted research on the Hairy Campbell, Côte d'Ivoire. Monkeys have in their repertoire of six simple sounds. It appears that they may have identified a combination of additional significance, for example, associated with the approaching predator. According to the researchers who have proto-syntax, the most complicated, yet they managed to say in animals. Similarly, could look very early phase of the evolution of human language. Guenons Campbell live in small groups, counting approximately 10 individuals. At the head of each group is an adult male, accompanied by several females and their offspring. The specialists examined the provocation given by males. They differ somewhat from the sounds of females. Analyzed, as they react to the sounds of other males in various situations, such as when in the vicinity were the predators, like an eagle or a leopard. Males were six key exhortations: boom, crack, Hok, Hok-oo-oo crack, wak-oo. But it turned out that very rarely to single . Preferred to combine them in various sequences with an average length of 25 individual exhortations. According to the researchers, by changing the order of the calls for "the phrase" information can be made more precise. Can relate to what is happening in the environment (broken tree, approaching predator), to talk about the type of predator (leopard, eagle) and how to detect predators (to perceive him or hear). Provocation may also relate to situations that are not dangerous, such as the collection of the group before heading to another place, or meeting with another herd at the intersection of the two territories. The ability of such communications may have evolved because Guenons have worse opportunities than, for example, voice birds. Therefore, learn to communicate complex information using a combination of a few simple sounds. Moreover, life in the dense trees mean that monkeys are more difficult with each other eye contact. Therefore, the more effective is the communication by voice. Biologists also know now that macaques communicate among themselves through shouting. Cries, they use most often are also the shortest. A similar rule prevails in all human languages. Most common words - such as for example "yes" or "no", "me" or "it" - is very short. "If the words they use most often our conversations were long indefinitely, because we use it hundreds of times a day" - said as quoted by the BBC News website Dr Stuart Semple. Researcher decided to see whether a similar rule applies also in the world of our animal relatives. Chose to study Taiwanese macaques, because it is known that they speak 35 different cries, (although the meaning of most of these sounds is not clear to researchers). Dr Semple and his colleagues studied the relationship between the length of the different cries, and the frequency of their occurrence. It turned out that the most often repeated slogans were very short. Macaques seemed very rarely cries and lamentations long. "For the first time it has been observed in vocal communication in species other than man" - says Dr. Semple. Researchers stress that the "discussions" macaque rule "more often is less" brings the additional advantage beyond time savings. Spend short beeps macaques reduce the risk of recovery at each other because of predators. Perhaps these benefits were not negligible even if developed in our own way of communication.