

Skeletal biology and individual life history of Gombe chimpanzees

ADRIENNE L. ZIHLMAN

University of California, Santa Cruz

MARY ELLEN MORBECK

University of Arizona, Tucson

AND JANE GOODALL

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

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Skeletons of Gombe chimpanzees representing both sexes and ages from infancy to old age are examined in detail by a variety of techniques. The combination of biological and lifetime behavioural data presents an integrated view of individuals which make up a local population. These skeletons reflect species-patterned growth, development and ageing. Furthermore, individual variation is related to lifetime experiences: for example, the impact of nutrition, injury and disease on survival and reproduction in the physical and psychosocial environments. Size, shape and internal structure of bones and teeth record life-history features associated with both primary and secondary life-history characters. These case studies emphasize the role of the individual in the evolutionary process.

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