

FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF OLIVE BABOONS (*Papio Anubis*) in WEST BUGWE FOREST  
RESERVE

BY

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## DECLARATION

I NAMULI DANIELLA solemnly declare that the project work entitled “FEEDING BEHAVIOR OF OLIVE BABOONS (*Papio Anubis*) in WEST BUGWE FOREST RESERVE” submitted to the Department of Biology, Busitema University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Bachelor in Science and Education, is a record of an original work done by me under the supervision of Madam Natukunda Flavia. The results in this report have not been submitted before for any other degree, part of degree or examination at this or any other university.

Signature.....

NAMULI DANIELLA

Date.....

## **APPROVAL**

This research report has been submitted for examination with my approval as the candidate's university supervisor.

Signature.....

Madam Natukunda Flavia

Date.....

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this piece of work to my MOTHER, for her generosity and endless support towards me attaining this level of education. *I love you mom.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I bless the Lord God Almighty, my helper, comforter, refuge, hope, provider and protector, because of whom he has made to be today and what he has made me achieve my entire life.

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## ABSTRACT

A number of studies have been made on many different baboon populations. I studied the feeding behavior of olive baboons (*Papio anubis*) in West Bugwe Forest Reserve, Busia District, Uganda. Using direct observation method on one troop of baboons, I identified the food species and food items they eat and determine their availability. I computed the preference of different food species from the results obtained. Baboons are selective feeders. They fed from food species ranging from trees to shrubs. A total of thirty two plant species were counted in the forest and the most abundant plant species except grasses were; *Broussonetia papyrifera*, among trees, *Olyra latifolia* and *Latana camara* most abundant among creepers and shrubs respectively. The highest percentage of food items eaten was leaves (54%), followed by seeds (32%) and lastly Fruits (14%). The first five preferred foods were; *Sterculia dawel*, *Senna spectabilis*, *Dodonea angustifolia*, *Grewia calymmatosepala* and *Psidium guajava*. Pearson rank correlation ( $r = -0.5692$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ) was used to test the relationship between percentage density and preference, which showed that there was a difference between the two. The feeding behavior of infant, juveniles and adults was put into consideration. The study was done for three days on one troop of baboons. With the help of this study, the olive baboon population in West Bugwe Forest would be conserved.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Baboons are primates belonging to genus *Papio*, one of the 23 genera of Old World monkeys. There are five species of baboons - hamadryas baboon (*Papio hamadryas*), guinea baboon (*Papio papio*), olive baboon (*Papio anubis*), yellow baboon (*Papio cynocephalus*) and chacma baboon (*Papio ursinus*) – scattered across various habitats mainly in open savannahs, woodlands and tropical forests in Africa and Arabia (Primate Info Net, 2000). Baboons usually live in groups known as troops which can be hierarchical at times. Group sizes are typically around 50 animals, but can vary between 5 and 250, depending on species, location and time of year (Jolly, 1993). Baboons vary in size and weight depending on the species. The smallest, the hamadryas baboon, is 50cm (20in) in length and weighs only 14 kg (31 lb.), while the largest, the chacma baboon, is up to 120 cm (47 in) in length and weighs 40 kg (88 lb.). All baboons have long, dog-like muzzles, heavy, powerful jaws with sharp canine teeth, close-set eyes; thick fur except on their muzzles, short tails, and nerveless, hairless pads of skin on their protruding buttocks called ischial callosities that for sitting comfort. Baboons exhibit sexual dimorphism in size, color and/or canine teeth development (Groves C. P., 2005).

The olive baboon (*Papio anubis*), also called the Anubis baboon, is a member of the family Cercopithecidae (old world monkeys). The species is the widest ranging of all baboons (Groves C. , 2001) (Jolly, 1993) (Nowak, 1999), being found in 25 countries throughout Africa, extending from Mali eastward to Ethiopia and Tanzania. It inhabits savannahs, open woodland, steppes and forests (Melnick, 1987)(Jolly, 1993)(Nowak, 1999). The common name is derived from its coat color, which is a shade of green grey at a distance and the alternative name comes from the Egyptian god Anubis, who was often represented by a dog head resembling the dog-like muzzle of the baboon. At a closer range, its coat is multicolored, due to the rings of yellow brown and black on the hairs (Rowe, 1996). The hairs on the baboon's face are coarser and range from dark grey to black and this coloration is shared by both sexes although males have a mane of longer hair that tapers down to ordinary length along the back. Besides the mane, the male olive baboons differs from the female in terms of weight, body and canine tooth size; males are on average 70 cm tall while standing and females measure 60 cm in height, typical size for both

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