

Application of personality assessment to the management of captive siamang gibbons (*Symphalangus syndactylus*)



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Aim

Investigate the relationship between personalities and breeding success.

Methods

- Hominoid personality questionnaire distributed.
- Validation through behavioural coding (n=16)
- ICC - identify reliable traits.
- PCA - formation of domains accounting for variability.
- GLM - to test relationship between personality

Domains

Excitable

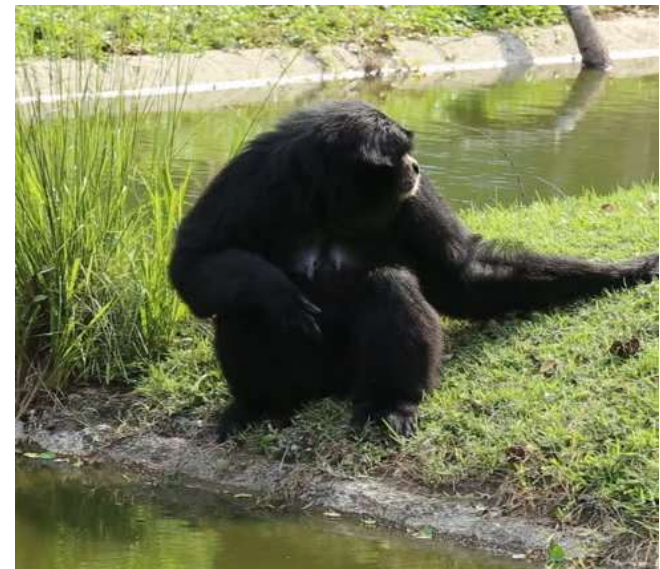
Thoughtless
Dependent
Clumsy
(HA)Social
Innovative
Reckless
Distractible
Defiant
Active
Disorganised
Imitative
Playful
Inquisitive
Impulsive

Authoritative

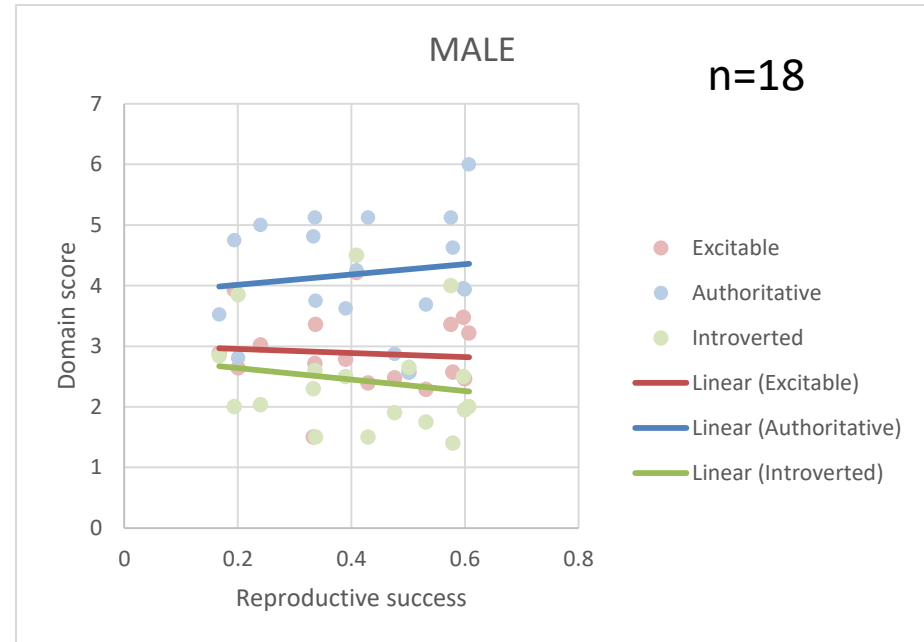
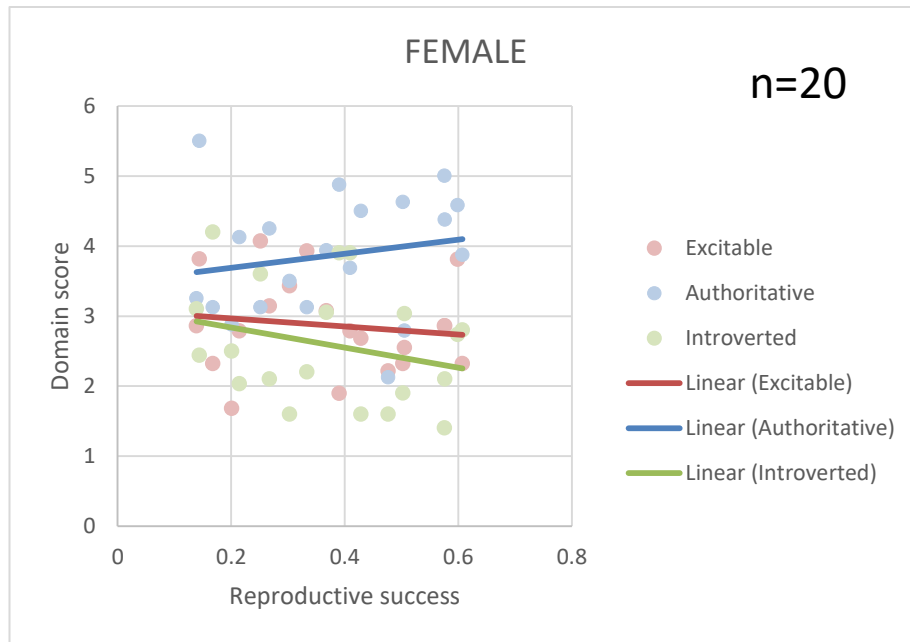
Persistent
Independent
Decisive
Aggressive
Stingy
Bullying
Dominant
Vulnerable

Introverted

(HA) Cautious
Autistic
Erratic
(HA)Oblivious
Anxious
Fearful
Irritable
Solitary
Unperceptive
Depressed



Results – Individual reproductive success

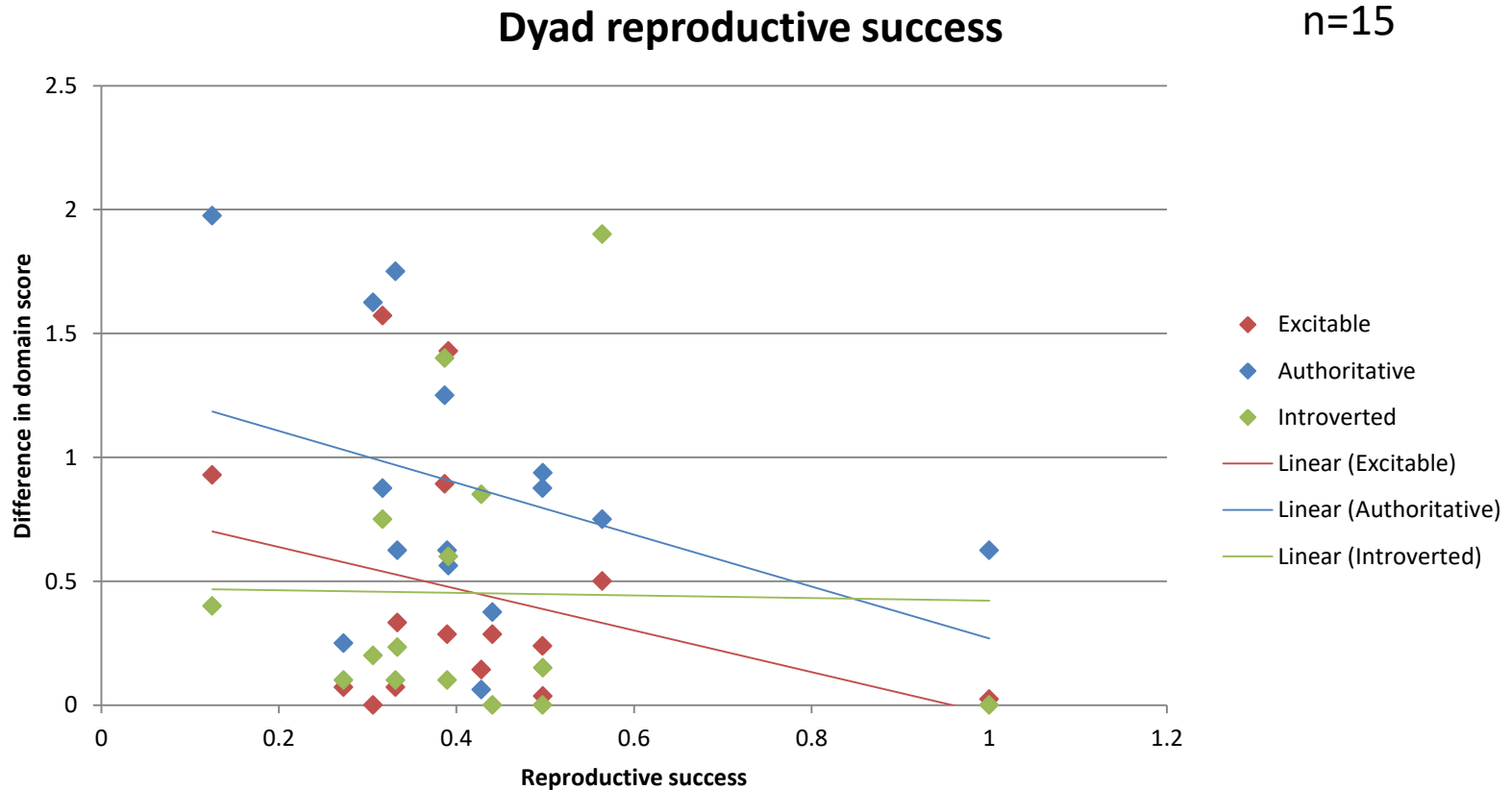


Age predominant factor in determining reproductive success
- young females increased reproductive success.



Age predominant factor in determining reproductive success
Number breeding transfers also highly significant
-males with only 1 transfer more successful

Results – Dyad reproductive success



More similar domain scores for **Excitable** and **Authoritative** increased reproductive success.

Discussion and conclusions

- Trait rating produces reliable data for 3 dimensions.
- Individual effect of personality not significant
 - Further analysis required i.e. within age classes.
- Potential significance of dyad personality
 - Importance for this species and its monogamous management (Carlstead *et al.* 1999; Schuett *et al.* 2011).
- Value to inform future recommendations
- Further detailed analysis, including studbook data.
- Wider project investigating effect of personality on management of zoo-housed primates.