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VOCAL REPERTOIRE OF WILD INDRIS IN THE MONTANE EASTERN RAINFORESTS OF MADAGASCAR

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Indri indri, the largest extant lemur, is a diurnal species living in the eastern montane rainforests of Madagascar. Vocal communication in the indri has been studied mainly in qualitative ways. Moreover, the few studies carried out in the wild are not providing detailed information about the acoustic structure of vocalizations. We studied social groups of wild indris in the Analamazoatra Reserve and in the Station Forestière, near the village Andasibe. Since 2004 and up to 2008, we collected a sample of 1660 vocalizations during the period September-December. We recorded a total of 25 individuals belonging to 9 different groups. Despite the fact that indris are very well known for their loud long distance calls (the songs), acoustic communication in this species is conspicuous and consists of several different vocalizations. Spectrographic analysis of the vocal repertoire, excluding the song, allowed recognition of 8 different vocal displays, which in some cases may occur in association. We applied multivariate statistical analysis to discriminate the different vocal units and we obtained results showing that 98 % of cases were correctly classified to their respective group.