

UNDERSTANDING THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SINGING PRIMATES: THE CASE OF *Indri indri*

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Unlike the great apes and most of the other nonhuman primates, species belonging to the families *Hylobatidae*, *Tarsiidae*, *Callicebinae* and *Indridae* are known to produce complex, species-specific and sex-specific patterns of vocal emissions usually referred to as "songs". We studied the indris in the field since 2004 and, in the present work, we provide a comparative analysis of singing primates biology, behavior, social organization and acoustic communication. We focused especially on the similarities and differences of indri's calling when compared with other singing primates, analyzing the various aspects of primate territorial vocalizations. We also critically discuss song development in these species. Little is known about how vocal patterns develop in singing primates but there's little evidence for vocal learning and, on the contrary, songs appear to be under strong genetic control.