Primate Ecomorphology: The Evolution of Nails and Claws in Primates

Summary / Zusammenfassung
Some aspects of morphology are directly related to specific behavioural and ecological aspects of the biology of a species. The recognition of such links is useful for the interpretation of fossil species. In addition, the most likely adaptive state of hypothetical ancestors can also be assessed by reconstructing the evolutionary history of such morphological characters. The present project has generated new data on the shape and histological structure of primate nails and claws that has significantly increased the knowledge of those structures. Due to the importance of nails and claws for locomotor and other aspects of primate behaviour, new hypotheses could be generated regarding the biology of early primates.


Publications / Publikationen

Keywords / Suchbegriffe
nails, claws, locomotion, morphology, ecology, primate evolution.

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