

Hostile Anogenital Displays in Captive Hylobatidae

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From 1977 to 2003, 89 captive gibbons (Hylobatidae) in all four genera were observed and a behaviour not previously reported for gibbons, here called 'hostile presenting', was noted in 23 of 60 individuals of the genus *Hylobates*. The behaviour consisted of presenting the elevated rear at a conspecific or human target in contexts and with accompanying behaviours suggesting hostility. When directed at humans, the behaviour consisted of an anogenital present, and often included attempts to grab humans, teeth chomping, enclosure shaking, biting and shaking receptacles and/or directed leaps. Gibbon-to-gibbon hostile presenting was seen only in mother-reared gibbons and it featured the anogenital present and could incorporate agonistic brachiation or enclosure shaking. Both human-reared and mother-reared mature gibbons displayed the behaviour towards humans. Analogous to the anogenital display in marmosets (*Callithrix*), another monogamous primate, hostile presenting might serve as a territorial display behaviour for gibbons when a perceived opponent is inaccessible to direct attack. We suggest that gibbon hostile presenting is a previously unreported multidimensional social behaviour dependent on a variety of circumstantial variables.