

1 **Ecological and dietary differences between Ugandan chimpanzee communities with**
2 **possible implications on tool use**

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20 **SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT – HIGHLIGHTED STUDENT PAPER**

21 *To advance our knowledge of the role of ecological factors in the emergence of tool use in*

22 *chimpanzees, a nuanced understanding of the ecological conditions different chimpanzee*

23 *communities experience is needed. We studied four Ugandan chimpanzee communities in*

24 *two forests. One of these communities, Sonso, in the Budongo Forest, is well-known for its*

25 *restricted range of tool types, including a total absence of stick use. Food diversity and*

26 *abundance were highest, and stick tool use opportunities (abundance of sticks and insect*
27 *nests) were lowest for the core-habitat of the Sonso chimpanzees in contrast to the other*
28 *communities. We argue that ecological factors play a role in their unusual pattern of tool use,*
29 *and make predictions about the expected types of tool use in the other communities based*
30 *on their ecology. Thus, our study provides information that may help advance our*
31 *understanding of how tool use arises under varied socioecological circumstances.*

32

33 **AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS**

34 TG and IB formulated the idea. DM and IB conducted the transects. IB did the feeding
35 observations and faecal analyses. MB and IB analysed the data. IB, TG, CH and MB wrote
36 the manuscript.

37

38 **ABSTRACT**

39 Some East African chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) communities, such as the
40 Sonso chimpanzees, display an unusually limited range of tool-use, but it remains unclear
41 whether this is due to ecological and/or cultural factors. Information on ecological conditions
42 and the diet of the Sonso chimpanzees in relation to neighbouring communities is needed.
43 Here, we studied three adjacent communities in Budongo Forest (Sonso, Waibira, and
44 Kamira), and the presumed core area of an undescribed community (Mwera), in the
45 neighbouring Bugoma Forest. Through line-transects, we investigated (i) whether there were
46 differences in food diversity and abundance between the communities' home ranges; (ii)
47 whether the home ranges differed in abundance of sticks and insect nests; and (iii) whether
48 Sonso and Mwera chimpanzees differed in their diet (using faecal samples). Across
49 communities, Sonso had the richest food availability and the lowest insect nest abundance.
50 However, food availability in Mwera, Bugoma, was richer than Budongo communities that
51 neighbour the Sonso territory, suggesting that there may be variation within Budongo. Data
52 from faecal samples replicated our direct observations of food availability suggesting that
53 Sonso chimpanzees had a broader diet than Mwera chimpanzees. This difference in food

54 availability may partially explain the Sonso chimpanzees' lack of stick-tool-use, and low
55 levels of insectivory. The tool repertoire of the other communities is currently unknown;
56 however, we make predictions based on our ecological data. More detailed knowledge of
57 small-scale variation in ecology within and between forest habitats may be important to
58 advancing our understanding of the drivers of tool-use.

59 **KEYWORDS**

60 Tool use; chimpanzee; food availability; diversity; ecological influence on behaviour

61

62 INTRODUCTION

63 In a landmark study, Whiten et al. (1999) showed that 39 behavioural patterns, mainly in the
64 domain of tool use, were customary in some communities, but not in others. While the
65 original article did not discuss ecological explanations in detail, much debate has followed
66 regarding the impact of ecological variation on chimpanzee cultural behaviour, particularly
67 tool use in the context of foraging (Laland and Janik, 2006; Krutzen et al., 2007). The current
68 consensus is that diversity, distribution, and varying abundance of chimpanzee food sources
69 as well as variation in available tool materials are likely to impact the occurrence, innovation,
70 and maintenance of tool use (Möbius et al. 2008; Schöning et al., 2008; Humle and
71 Matsuzawa, 2002; Gruber et al. 2012; Sanz and Morgan 2013; Gruber et al., 2016; Grund et
72 al. 2019). Two hypotheses: the “necessity”, and “opportunity” hypotheses, relate ecological
73 factors to the emergence of tool use (Fox, Sitompul and Van Schaik, 1999). The necessity
74 hypothesis predicts the emergence of tool use in response to food scarcity (Fox, Sitompul
75 and Van Schaik, 1999), and the opportunity hypothesis proposes that the likelihood for tool
76 use increases when both tool materials and resources requiring tools for exploitation are
77 frequently encountered (Koops, McGrew and Matsuzawa, 2013). Both hypotheses have
78 received empirical support (Koops, McGrew and Matsuzawa, 2013; Yamakoshi, 1998; Sanz
79 and Morgan, 2013; Spagnoletti et al., 2012), and the two hypotheses are not mutually
80 exclusive; thus, both ecological and cultural factors may influence food-related tool use
81 behaviour (Gruber 2013; Grund et al. 2019; see also Rutz and St Clair, 2012).

82 Ugandan chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii*) exhibit a comparatively restricted
83 range of tool use behaviour as compared to other chimpanzee populations and subspecies
84 (McGrew, 2010). For example, the Ngogo and Kanyawara communities in Kibale Forest, and
85 the Sonso community in Budongo Forest (200 km away) respectively show only four, two
86 and one tool use behaviour in relation to food acquisition (Gruber et al., 2012). Nevertheless,
87 the appearance (Hobaiter et al., 2014) and subsequent social spread (Lamon et al., 2017) of
88 the use of a water sponging tool shows that the Sonso chimpanzees are capable of

89 innovation. These observations raise the question of why Ugandan chimpanzees rarely
90 engage in extractive tool use during foraging, despite possessing the cognitive abilities to do
91 so. One possible explanation is that environmental changes have increased food availability
92 (and loss of cyclic food scarcities), causing the Sonso chimpanzees to lose their knowledge
93 of stick-tool manufacture and use in the recent or more distant past (Gruber et al., 2012;
94 Gruber 2013). Humans have played a large role in the forest dynamics and plant species
95 composition of Uganda forests (Reynolds, 2005; Babweteera et al. 2012). For example, four
96 large sawmills were active in Budongo through the 20th century (Synott, 1985), with
97 subsequent logging and species-specific use of arboricides permanently influencing the
98 composition of the forest (Plumptre, 1996), and leading to an increase in the abundance of
99 fruiting trees, such as figs (Tweheyo and Lye, 2003).

100 While communities living in small riverine fragment forests in close proximity to Budongo
101 (e.g. Bulindi, 60 km away) have been documented to use stick tools during foraging
102 (McLennan, 2011), it is unknown whether the chimpanzees that inhabit the closest large
103 forest between Budongo and Kibale, the Bugoma forest, use tools (Figure 1). In this study
104 we compared the ecological conditions four chimpanzee communities are exposed in two
105 forest areas in order to test hypotheses about the impact of small scale variation in forest
106 ecology on chimpanzee tool using. We compared the potential food availability and tool use
107 opportunities of several communities in the long-term Budongo and newly-established
108 Bugoma forest field sites. We divided our research aim into three parts: firstly, we compared
109 potential chimpanzee food availability in the home range of the respective communities. We
110 expected the diversity and abundance of trees that chimpanzees are known to feed on
111 (Known Feeding Trees) to be highest in the Sonso home range, due to the increased
112 presence of fruit-bearing trees as a by-product of the historical timber production that was
113 centred around this community's territory (Reynolds, 2005; Gruber, 2013). Furthermore, we
114 expected that the communities' home ranges differed in Known Feeding Trees species
115 composition.

116 Secondly, we compared the tool use opportunities in the home ranges of the four
117 communities. We focused on extractive tool use in a foraging context (here the use of sticks
118 to extract insects, as employed by other communities within Uganda, e.g. Watts, 2008).
119 When describing tool use opportunities, we recorded the abundance of termite, *Cubitermes*
120 *ugandensis*, and ant nests, *Dorylus* spp, and the presence of potential extractive tool
121 materials, such as sticks. The insect species compared were chosen based on previous
122 records of abundance and feeding observations in the Budongo Forest (Hedges and
123 McGrew, 2012). We expected to find fewer tool use opportunities in Sonso as compared to
124 other areas because of the use of poison to control termite populations in recent decades
125 (Reynolds 2005).

126 Finally, we compared the diet of one chimpanzee community in each forest, Sonso in
127 Budongo and Mwera in Bugoma, using faecal samples from both groups and direct
128 observation of feeding behaviour in Sonso. We expected to find a greater abundance and a
129 more diverse array of seeds in the samples of the Sonso community, due to the predicted
130 difference in Known Feeding Tree abundance described above. To assess the efficacy of
131 faecal analyses, we compared dietary species composition obtained from feeding
132 observations of the Sonso community, with the species composition of their faecal samples.
133 Based on Phillips and McGrew (2013) we expected to identify around 80% of the species
134 from which fruit had been eaten, but only around 20% from which leaves had been eaten,
135 and 60% of species overall in the faecal samples, due to the difficulty of identifying non-
136 frugivory dietary parts at species level (Phillips and McGrew, 2013). We expected the
137 proportional abundance of seeds of a species in the faecal samples to increase the longer
138 we observed the chimpanzees to feed on that species. If faecal analysis in Sonso revealed
139 itself to be a good estimator of diet, we could then use the samples collected in Mwera, to
140 describe the diet of the yet unhabituated chimpanzees.

141

142 **METHODS**

143 **a) Study sites**

144 **i) *Budongo Forest***

145 The Budongo Forest is 435km² of continuous semideciduous tropical rain forest, located at
146 the top of the Albertine Rift in western Uganda between 1°37'N- 2°03'N and 31°22'-31°46'E
147 with a mean altitude of 1,100m (Plumptre, 1996; Figure 1). Chimpanzee density is estimated
148 to be 1.32 chimpanzees/km² (Plumptre and Cox, 2006). Plumptre (1996) showed that
149 Budongo exhibits a gradual change of tree species composition from the southwest to the
150 northeast, with the southwest having more species associated with Colonizing and Mixed
151 Forest, and the northeast being predominantly *Cynometra* Forest.

152 **ii) *Bugoma Forest***

153 Bugoma Forest (01°15'N 30°58'E) covers 400km² and is situated between 990 and 1,300 m
154 of elevation (Plumptre, 2010). It is separated from Budongo Forest by around 80km and is
155 the closest major forest to Budongo (Figure 1, Reynolds, 2005), located at an intermediate
156 point between the Budongo and Kibale forests. Much less is known about the history and
157 forest composition of Bugoma than Budongo. In 2006, the density of chimpanzees was
158 estimated to be 1.99 chimpanzees/km² (Plumptre and Cox, 2006).

159 **b) Study communities**

160 ***Sonso community (Budongo Forest)***

161 The Sonso community (around 70 individuals) has become well-known for its comparatively
162 restricted tool repertoire, particularly in a foraging context (Reynolds, 2005; Gruber et al.,
163 2009). In contrast to all other chimpanzee communities that have been studied long-term,
164 Sonso chimpanzees have never been observed to use sticks to extract food (Whiten et al.,
165 1999). Field experiments involving a hole filled with honey drilled in a log showed that Sonso
166 chimpanzees do not make use of sticks even when put directly into the hole (Gruber et al.,
167 2011). However, Sonso chimpanzees can use objects in a goal-directed manner for water

168 absorption (leaf and moss sponges; Hobaiter et al. 2014; Lamon et al, 2017, 2018), nest
169 building, body care (e.g. leaf-napkin), and social signals (buttress-beat) (Whiten et al., 1999;
170 Gruber et al., 2009; Reynolds, 2005).

171 ***Waibira community (Budongo Forest)***

172 The Waibira community ranges North-East of the Sonso core area, with overlapping
173 resource use at times. The Waibira community is estimated to total at least 120 individuals;
174 however, as the habituation process started in 2011 some individuals remain only partially
175 habituated. The Waibira chimpanzees have never been observed to use sticks as tools,
176 thus, suggesting the absence of a stick-tool use culture, similar to Sonso. However, since
177 the Waibira chimpanzees have only recently been habituated it is likely that substantial
178 elements of their behaviour and diet remain unknown. They have been observed on two
179 occasions to use leaf-tools to feed on *Dorylus* 'army-ants' (Mugisha et al. 2016; Hobaiter,
180 2019 pers. observation), a task for which other chimpanzee communities employ stick-tools.
181 Insectivory has been previously reported in Budongo chimpanzees but is rare (Newton-
182 Fisher, 1999; Reynolds, 2005) and the Sonso community have not been observed to feed on
183 this species, or to use leaf-tools during insectivory.

184 ***Kamira community (Budongo Forest)***

185 This community is located North-West of the Sonso chimpanzee range. There is no direct
186 observation of the resident community. As for all other chimpanzee communities in
187 Budongo, there is no direct evidence that the Kamira chimpanzees engage in stick-tool use.

188 ***Mwera community (Bugoma Forest)***

189 Habituation of the Mwera chimpanzee community in Bugoma began in January 2016. Direct
190 observation of the chimpanzees remains challenging, and their tool repertoire is unknown. A
191 biodiversity survey suggested that Bugoma Forest is ecologically more similar to Kibale than
192 Budongo Forest (Plumptre et al., 2010). In Kibale Forest, the diversity of tree species that
193 produce chimpanzee foods is lower than in Budongo, which has been suggested to impact

194 the increased levels of insectivory and presence of stick-tool use for extractive foraging
195 (Gruber et al., 2012).

196 **c) Data collection**

197 **i) *Transects***

198 To compare chimpanzee food availability, we conducted 12 500m-long line-transects in both
199 the Sonso and Mwera home range (May- August 2017), and 11 500m-long line-transects in
200 both the Waibira and Kamira home range (July – December 2015; see Supplementary
201 Material for a detailed transect protocol and locations, Table S1-3, Figure S1-2). We
202 identified trees (wherever possible to species level) and ascertained whether it was a Known
203 Feeding Tree based on previous Budongo feeding records from the Sonso and Waibira
204 communities. As fruit represents the major component of chimpanzee diets (Newton-Fisher,
205 1999), and high fruit abundance has been used to explain the lack of extractive tool use
206 behaviour of the Sonso community (Gruber et al., 2012), we separately compared the
207 abundance and diversity of the subset of Known Feeding Trees from which the fruit is eaten
208 (Known Fruit Trees; Supplementary Material). Occasionally it was not possible to identify the
209 tree; however, this was only ever the case for tree species that chimpanzees were not
210 known to feed on (Non-Feeding Trees). When this occurred, we noted all characteristics as
211 below, but classified the tree as “unidentified”.

212 The diameter at breast height (DBH) was recorded for all trees that had a DBH of ≥ 10 cm
213 and where at least 50% of the DBH fell within the transect zone. Within Sonso and Mwera
214 community ranges, DBH measurements were recorded for all trees (Known Feeding Trees
215 and Non-Feeding Trees), whereas for Waibira and Kamira, DBH measurements were only
216 recorded for Known Feeding Trees.

217 When we encountered an insect nest (termite mounds, *Cubitermes ugandensis*, and ant
218 nests, *Dorylus* spp), we took its GPS location, measured its height, determined whether it
219 was active, identified the species (with the help of an experienced field assistant), and

220 assessed surrounding tool availability. Tool availability was assessed by measuring a 5m
221 radius around the mound, scrutinizing a NW (270-360) 90-degree quadrant (or SW (180-
222 270) if NW was not available), and counting all plants capable of producing termite-fishing
223 probes or dipping sticks (classified as twigs, vines, or terrestrial herbaceous vegetation
224 (THV) (Hedges and McGrew, 2012).

225 **ii) Feeding observations**

226 The Sonso community numbered around 70 individuals during this study (May through
227 August 2017); however, we only encountered a subset of individuals. We exclusively
228 followed adult chimpanzees, and we balanced as much as possible the choice of focal
229 individuals according to sex and social rank. We followed 8 male and 5 female chimpanzees
230 between 7:30am and 16:30pm. One to six days of feeding observations, with up to a
231 maximum three consecutive days, were made for each focal individual. The total focal
232 sampling time was 246.57 hours (females: mean = 22.29 ± 11.01 hours; males: mean =
233 15.23 ± 8.93 hours), of which 88.13 hours (females: mean 8.67 ± 5.58 hours; males: mean =
234 6.92 ± 4.44 hours) were spent feeding by a focal individual. During each follow we used a
235 stop-watch to record the date and time from the beginning of the feeding event until the end.
236 We defined a feeding event as “item placed into mouth, remaining there (or parts thereof)
237 and seen to be either chewed or swallowed” (Phillips and McGrew, 2013). We identified the
238 plant species being eaten (Observed Feeding Plant) with the help of an experienced
239 Budongo Conservation Field Station field assistant. We also noted the food item that was
240 eaten, which we categorized for plant material as: ripe fruit, unripe fruit, mature leaves,
241 young leaves, bark, root, flowers, pith, resin, and rotten wood. We made a subcategory of
242 Observed Feeding Plants from which chimpanzees ate fruit (Observed Fruit Plants,
243 Supplementary Material). Non-plant food items included invertebrates, vertebrates, soil, and
244 honeycomb. We noted the time the focal was lost or out of sight to obtain the total number of
245 minutes a focal was observed for.

246 **iii) Faecal samples**

247 In Sonso, we collected samples as soon as possible after a defecation event (never after
248 more than 15min) in a ziplock bag, and noted the producer of the sample, the time, and an
249 estimated percentage of deposited faeces obtained. A sample was considered as complete
250 if $\geq 95\%$ of the content was collected. Incompleteness was due to faeces consistency, rushed
251 collection due to rapid movement of the focal chimpanzee, or the dispersion of the faeces
252 over a large area (particularly from arboreal defecations).

253 For the Mwera community, samples were collected opportunistically when found on the
254 ground (only samples estimated to be ≤ 3 days old were collected). We did not record
255 sample completeness for Mwera, as this was not possible to determine without having
256 observed the defecation event. We obtained 105 samples from the Sonso chimpanzees, and
257 45 from the Mwera chimpanzees. Upon return to the research station, we weighed all
258 samples using a digital scale (Kenex KX digital scale, 400 x 0.1 g), and we added cotton
259 soaked in ethanol into the ziplock bags so that the samples could be stored before
260 processing (up to a maximum of 3-days after collection). All samples were collected between
261 May and August 2017. We processed the faecal samples following McGrew, Marchant and
262 Phillips (2009) in the veterinary laboratory of the Budongo Conservation Field Station (see
263 Supplementary Material for the protocol followed).

264 **d) Data analysis**

265 We conducted all analyses in R Studio version 1.0.153 (RStudio, 2016).

266 ***i) Known Feeding Tree abundance***

267 As a considerable proportion of Non-Feeding Trees could not be identified, it was only
268 possible to compare the frequency and diversity of Known Feeding Trees between the
269 ranges of the communities. We compared the abundance of Known Feeding Trees between
270 the communities using Generalized Linear Mixed Models (GLMMs) with forest identity as a
271 random term (random intercept with fixed mean), and chimpanzee community identity and
272 researcher identity as predictor variables.

273 ***ii) Known Feeding Tree sizes***

274 We log-transformed the DBH data so that they were normally distributed (Figure S3). We
275 fitted GLMMs with forest identity as the random term (random intercept with fixed mean),
276 chimpanzee community identity and researcher identity as predictor variables, and the log-
277 transformed DBH of Known Feeding Trees as the response variable.

278 ***iii) Overall potential food availability***

279 We used the summed DBH of all Known Feeding Trees of each forest sample as a
280 surrogate measure for potential maximum chimpanzee food abundance. The DBH of a tree
281 is considered a reliable measure of the quantity of fruit it may bear (Chapman et al., 1992).
282 Thus, summing this over all the Known Feeding Trees in a sample yields information on the
283 maximum fruit (and foliage) abundance available to chimpanzees.

284 We also summed the DBH of all Non-Feeding Trees for Sonso and Mwera, which allowed us
285 to calculate the ratio of the total DBH of Known Feeding Trees to the total DBH of Non-
286 Feeding Trees.

287 ***iv) Diversity of Known Feeding Trees***

288 We chose the Shannon-Wiener index to calculate α diversity, as it is the only measure that
289 can be separated into meaningful independent α and β components when community
290 weights are unequal, and because species are weighted by their relative abundance (Jost,
291 2007; see Supplementary Material for more information). This weighting means that neither
292 very rare nor very abundant species have a disproportionate impact, and that species
293 richness and species evenness are given equal importance (Jost, 2007; Supplementary
294 Material). We chose the Horn index to calculate β diversity, since it uses abundance data
295 (rather than presence-absence data), it relates to Shannon entropy, and when the properties
296 of β -metrics were compared, β_{horn} scored highly (Barwell, Isaac and Kunin, 2015;
297 Supplementary Material). All diversity indices are entropies (which gives the uncertainty in
298 the species identity of a sample), not diversities, and to be able to interpret them properly we

299 converted them to true α and β diversities respectively through calculating the exponential of
300 the indices (Jost, 2006; Table S4). We then compared the α diversity and the β diversity of
301 Known Feeding Trees using GLMMs with forest identity as a random term (random intercept
302 with fixed mean), and chimpanzee community identity and researcher identity as predictor
303 variables. We then calculated the γ diversity of each community's home range (Table S4).
304 To illustrate our results, we produced a species rank abundance curve and a species
305 accumulation curve using the package "vegan".

306 **vi) Known Feeding Tree species composition**

307 We used PRIMER 6 (Clarke and Gorley, 2005) for an Analysis of Similarity (ANOSIM) to
308 determine whether the chimpanzee communities' home ranges differ in Known Feeding Tree
309 species composition. To visualize dissimilarities between communities we constructed Non-
310 Metric Multidimensional Scaling (NMDS) ordination plots using the package "vegan" in R.
311 Using the package "indicspecies" we looked for the indicator species of each community's
312 home range and of combinations of two communities (De Caceres, Legendre and Moretti,
313 2010).

314 **vi) Insect nest abundance**

315 We compared the abundance of two species of termite mounds, *Cubitermes ugandensis*,
316 and ant nests, *Dorylus* spp, per transect between the communities' home ranges using a
317 GLMM with forest identity as the random term (random intercept with fixed mean), and
318 chimpanzee community identity and researcher identity as predictor variables.

319 **vii) Abundance of tool material (THV, twigs, and vines)**

320 We contrasted tool availability (i.e. the abundance of THV, vines, and twigs around an insect
321 nest) using a GLMM with chimpanzee community identity and researcher identity as
322 predictor variables, and forest identity as a random term (random intercept with fixed mean).

323 **viii) Faecal samples as predictors of chimpanzee diet**

324 As we were not able to distinguish different *Ficus* species in the faecal samples, we
325 combined the *Ficus* species we recorded during feeding observations. Firstly, we fitted a
326 linear model to assess whether the number of plant species identified in the faecal samples
327 could be predicted by the number of Observed Feeding Plants, accounting for the number of
328 hours the respective chimpanzee was observed, and the weight of the faecal sample. If the
329 weight and the hours of observation did not have a significant effect, then we excluded them
330 from the full model.

331 Secondly, we arcsine square root transformed the proportion of seeds of a given plant
332 species in the faecal samples to meet the assumption of homogeneity of variance (Figure
333 S4). With this as the response variable, we fitted a GLMM with the proportion of time (out of
334 all the recorded feeding time) a chimpanzee was observed to feed on the respective species
335 as the predictor variable, and individual chimpanzee identity as the random term (random
336 intercept with fixed mean). In the full model, we included the total number of hours a
337 chimpanzee was observed, and the total weight of all faecal samples of the respective
338 chimpanzee as covariates. If the reduced models did not differ significantly from the full
339 model, then we excluded the respective covariate from the final model.

340 ***ix) Abundance and α , β and γ diversity of seeds in faecal samples***

341 We calculated the α , β and γ diversity of each community from the seeds identified in the
342 faecal samples with the same methods we used when we determined Known Feeding Tree
343 diversity from the transects. However, there were nine samples from Mwera we had to
344 exclude to calculate β diversity, because they did not contain any seeds.

345 After assessing whether the weight of a faecal sample was correlated with the respective
346 predictor variable (using Spearman's rank correlation), we compared seed abundance and α
347 diversity using Wilcoxon tests, and β diversity using a two-sample *t*-test.

348

349 **RESULTS**

350 ***i) Known Feeding Tree abundance***

351 The communities did not differ in abundance of Known Feeding Trees (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 2.30$, p
352 = 0.32).

353 ***ii) Known Feeding Tree sizes***

354 The mean DBH of Known Feeding Trees differed between the communities' home ranges
355 (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 7.86$, $p < 0.020$). Only Sonso differed from all other communities, with a
356 greater mean DBH (Table 1, Table S6).

357 ***iii) Potential food availability in each community's home range***

358 The summed DBH of Known Feeding Trees was highest for Sonso, which was almost twice
359 as high as the summed DBH of the other two Budongo Forest communities: Waibira and
360 Kamira. Mwera in Bugoma Forest had the second highest summed-DBH value. For Sonso,
361 the summed DBH of Known Feeding Trees was over twice as high as the summed DBH of
362 Non-Feeding Trees; the ratio was roughly 1:1 for Mwera (Table 1).

364 ***iv) Diversity of Known Feeding Trees***

365 The α diversity of Known Feeding Trees differed between the communities' home ranges
366 (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 11.97$, $p < 0.001$), where the α diversity of Sonso was roughly 2.5 times
367 greater than the α diversity of any other community (Table 2, Figure 2). Sonso was the only
368 community that had a greater α diversity of Known Feeding Trees than any other community
369 (Table S7). The β diversity of Known Feeding Trees differed between the communities'
370 home ranges (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 8.55$, $p = 0.014$), where Kamira had a lower diversity than any
371 other community, albeit not strongly (Table S7). The γ diversity of Known Feeding Trees in
372 Sonso was roughly 2.60 times greater than in any other community (Table 2, Figure 2).

374 The abundance of species, represented by Known Feeding Tree species richness and
375 species evenness, were greatest for the Sonso community's range (Figure 3a). The species
376 accumulation curves are in line with the results from the diversity analyses since the number

377 of Known Feeding Tree species recorded was highest for Sonso for a given number of
378 transects (Figure 3b).

379 **v) Known Feeding Tree species composition**

380 The Known Feeding Tree species composition differed between the community home
381 ranges (ANOSIM, $R = 0.41$, $p = 0.001$). The home ranges of Waibira and Kamira had a similar
382 species composition and relative abundance of Known Feeding Trees, whereas Sonso and
383 Mwera differed in this respect (Figure 4).

384 We only found indicator Known Feeding Tree species for the home ranges of Sonso and
385 Mwera, implying that Kamira and Waibira home ranges are populated by species that are
386 commonly found at the other communities' home ranges (Table S8). We found ten indicator
387 species for Sonso (all indigenous rather than introduced species), where *Trichilia rubescens*,
388 *Teclea nobilis*, and *Croton sylvaticus* had the highest indicator values, meaning that they are
389 the most characteristic species. Mwera was characterized by three species: *Morus lactea*,
390 *Chrysophyllum muerense*, and *Sterculia dawei* (also indigenous species). We found three
391 community combinations with indicator species, all of which included Sonso. Thus, the home
392 range of Sonso appears to contain many Known Feeding Tree species that are absent or
393 rare at other home ranges.

394 **vi) Insect nest abundance**

395 The abundance of termite and ant nests differed between the forests (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 7.18$, p
396 $= 0.028$), where Kamira had a greater abundance than Mwera and Sonso, and Waibira a
397 greater abundance than Sonso (Figure 5, Table S10).

398 **vii) Abundance of tool material (THV, twigs, and vines)**

399 The abundance of THV, twigs and vines did not differ between the communities' home
400 ranges (GLMM, $\chi^2_{2,6} = 4.88$, $p = 0.087$).

401 **viii) Faecal samples' predictive power**

402 Around half (48.73%) of the Observed Plant Species in Sonso were found in the faecal
403 samples. Fig species accounted for 79.53% of the seeds, followed by *Broussonetia*
404 *papyrifera* (11.24%) and *Psidium guajava* (8.76%; Table 3). From the feeding observations,
405 figs were most heavily fed on, accounting for 30.82% of the feeding time. Similar to the
406 faecal samples, *Broussonetia papyrifera* was an important feeding species (17.10%; Table
407 3), but *Psidium guajava* only accounted for 2.59% of the feeding time. In contrast, we
408 observed the Sonso chimpanzees to feed on *Cordia millenii* 17.92% of the time (Table 3),
409 but just 0.039% of the seeds found in faecal samples were of that species (Table 3). Overall,
410 species richness and evenness appear to be lower for the faecal samples.

412 The number of plant species found in the faecal samples was not affected by the number of
413 Observed Feeding Plants (lm, $F_{1,11} = 2.03$, $p = 0.18$), when the weight of the faecal samples,
414 and the duration of observation were excluded due to their non-significance (lm, $F_{1,10} = 0.73$,
415 $p = 0.42$; lm, $F_{1,10} = 4.85$, $p = 0.055$; Figure S5).

416 The total weight of the faecal samples for a given chimpanzee did not affect the proportion of
417 a particular species in the faecal samples (GLMM, $\chi^2_{1,6} = 0.040$, $p = 0.84$) and was thus
418 excluded from the model, as were the hours a chimpanzee was observed for (GLMM, $\chi^2_{1,6} =$
419 0.028 , $p = 0.87$). The greater the proportion of time a chimpanzee fed on a plant species, the
420 higher the proportion of its seeds in the faecal samples (GLMM, $\chi^2_{1,4} = 161.9$, $p < 0.0005$,
421 coefficient = 0.83; Figure S6).

422 **ix) Abundance and α , β and γ diversity of seeds in faecal samples**

423 Seed abundance positively correlated with the weight of the sample (Spearman's rank
424 correlation, $S_{151} = 426640$, $p = 0.0029$). However, the average weight of a sample did not
425 differ between the Sonso and Mwera communities (two sample t -test, $t_{149} = 1.032$, $p = 0.30$),
426 meaning that we were able to exclude weight from subsequent analyses. The mean
427 abundance of seeds per faecal sample was greater for the Sonso community ($2060.82 \pm$

428 366.99 s.e.) than the Mwera community (839.46 ± 441.28 s.e.; Wilcoxon, $W_{151} = 1052$, $p <$
429 0.001 ; Figure S7).

430 Given that the data of the α diversity of seeds of faecal samples did not exhibit homogeneity
431 of variance, we were unable to perform an ANCOVA. However, the weight of a faecal
432 sample did not correlate with the α diversity of that sample (Spearman's rank correlation,
433 $S_{151} = 571800$, $p = 0.97$), and was thus excluded from the model. The α diversity of seeds in
434 faecal samples was 1.5 times greater for the Sonso community (Wilcoxon, $W_{151} = 518$, $p <$
435 0.001 ; Table 4; Figure S8).

436 Due to the nature of how β_{horn} is calculated, it was not possible to assess whether the weight
437 of the sample had an effect. However, as shown above, weight did not appear to differ
438 between the two communities. The β diversity was 1.09 times greater for the Mwera
439 community (two sample t -test, $t_{5949} = -5.34$, $p < 0.001$; Table 4; Figure S8), but γ diversity was
440 1.38X greater for the Sonso community (Table 4).

442 The species rank abundance curve of the species identified from seeds in the faecal
443 samples suggests a lower species evenness and species richness in the diet of the Mwera
444 chimpanzees (Figure 6a). The species accumulation curve suggests a greater species
445 richness in the diet of the Sonso chimpanzees (since for a given number of faecal samples,
446 the number of species recorded is greater for Sonso), although there is considerable overlap
447 of the 95% confidence intervals (Figure 6b).

448

449 **DISCUSSION**

450 We analysed a range of ecological indicators that might influence the likelihood of wild
451 chimpanzees engaging in extractive tool use in two Ugandan forests. We found that, while
452 most groups' territories did not differ substantially in these factors, the Sonso community's
453 home range in the Budongo forest had both a higher diversity and biomass of chimpanzee
454 feeding species. In addition, Sonso chimpanzees had the greatest number of Known

455 Feeding Tree species unique to their range, and the lowest termite and ant nest abundance.
456 The abundance of potential tool materials did not differ between any of the communities'
457 home ranges. Faecal samples underestimate food species richness, under-representing
458 some species, and over-representing others. However, they nevertheless provided valuable
459 insight into chimpanzee diets and remain a useful tool for describing unhabituated
460 chimpanzee feeding behaviour. The greater abundance and diversity of seeds we found in
461 the Sonso chimpanzees' faecal samples is likely to reflect a genuine difference in diet
462 between the Sonso and Mwera chimpanzees, which may have consequences for their tool
463 use behaviour.

464 ***Potential food availability differs between chimpanzee communities' home ranges***

465 While the abundance of chimpanzee feeding trees did not differ between the communities'
466 home ranges (either within or between forests); there was a small difference in biomass – a
467 measure of the potential fruit abundance – suggesting, that the Sonso community benefits
468 from particularly high food availability. Systematic managed logging occurred across the
469 Ugandan National Forest Reserves; however, within them some areas were designated
470 'Nature Reserves' with no legal logging taking place. Only the Kamira chimpanzee's home
471 range overlapped with one of these reserve areas, making it hard to draw meaningful
472 inferences about the impact of managed logging. However, the presence of widespread
473 illegal logging may better explain the observed pattern of variation in biomass. Illegal loggers
474 particularly target large mature trees. While illegal logging occurs across all four
475 communities' home ranges, the presence of an active research station in the Sonso
476 community's range for almost 30-years appears to have conferred significant protection
477 (Babweteera et al., 2012), allowing a greater proportion of trees to mature.

478 The α diversity of Known Feeding Trees was greatest for Sonso, roughly 2.5X greater than
479 any other community. This difference means that at the local scale (i.e. per transect) Sonso
480 had the greatest diversity. The β diversity of Known Feeding Trees was lowest for Kamira,
481 possibly because its location near a nature reserve may mean that the area is relatively

482 uniform (i.e. a low compositional turnover between transects) in climax species. However,
483 the difference in diversity between areas was quite small. As predicted, the total diversity
484 seemed to be greatest for Sonso (supported by the highest γ diversity). The results are in
485 line with previous studies which found that, when compared to chimpanzees in Kibale, the
486 Sonso chimpanzees diet contains a higher diversity of food items which may limit any
487 negative effect of seasonal food shortages and reduce the necessity to use tools to extract
488 alternative food resources (Reynolds 2005; Gruber et al. 2012). Nevertheless, a cross-
489 seasonal survey of actual chimpanzee food availability is needed to strengthen these
490 arguments.

491 Many indicator species were found for Sonso (alone or in combination with another
492 community's home range). Thus, the Sonso chimpanzees' home range has many species
493 that are absent or rare in other communities' home ranges. This diversity further highlights
494 the range of feeding options available to Sonso chimpanzees, again potentially reducing the
495 impact of cyclic food scarcities in more widely available feeding species.

496 Does the higher potential food availability in Sonso sustain greater chimpanzee and other
497 potential competitor species densities (such as other frugivorous primates and birds)? A
498 similar density of small mammals and birds in Budongo and Bugoma suggests that this is
499 not the case (Owiunji, 2000; Plumptre et al., 2010), and the density of chimpanzees is
500 slightly lower for Budongo, suggesting similar levels of intraspecific and interspecific
501 competition across the forest areas (Plumptre and Cox, 2006).

502 ***Dietary differences between Sonso and Mwera***

503 Based on previous studies of chimpanzee faecal samples (Phillips and McGrew, 2013) we
504 expected to identify around 60% of the species that we had observed the Sonso
505 chimpanzees feeding on in their faecal samples, but we were only able to identify around
506 half. Faecal samples appear to represent the frugivorous component of the Sonso

507 chimpanzees' diet relatively well, but not the folivorous component and we were unable to
508 identify any species from the leaf fragments found in the faecal samples.

509 A comparison of the most common species in the faecal samples to the most frequently
510 recorded Observed Feeding Plants, indicated that, whilst there is considerable overlap, fruits
511 that produce many small seeds (such as *Broussonetia papyrifera*, *Ficus* spp., and *Psidium*
512 *guajava*) are overrepresented in the faecal samples. In contrast, fruit that produce large
513 seeds, from which the chimpanzees scrape off the flesh with their teeth but then rarely
514 swallow the seeds, are underrepresented. This bias likely explains our observations for
515 *Cordia millenii*, the species we recorded as the one chimpanzees spent the most time
516 feeding on, but which was rarely found in their faecal samples. However, as predicted, the
517 greater the proportion of time chimpanzees fed on a species, the higher the proportion of its
518 seeds were found in the faecal samples. Within this model we aimed to go beyond the
519 descriptive results of previous studies (e.g. Phillips and McGrew, 2013), but it proved
520 challenging due to zero-inflation. The zero-inflation was probably due to us being unable to
521 identify plant species in the faecal samples from which only leaves had been eaten, and
522 chimpanzees feeding on fruits whose large seeds were not regularly swallowed. The zero-
523 inflation of the model is problematic, but it will be difficult to avoid in future studies, even with
524 a larger sample size, given the number of feeding species that are not well represented by or
525 easily identified in faecal samples.

526 As predicted, the abundance and α diversity of seeds were greater for Sonso chimpanzees'
527 faecal samples as compared to the Mwera samples, suggesting that chimpanzees in the
528 Sonso community have a more diverse diet than the latter. The β diversity of seeds was
529 slightly greater for the Mwera chimpanzees' samples, however, we were unable to control for
530 individual identity in sample collection (and may have collected disproportion numbers of
531 samples from some individuals, particularly large mature males who are easier to find and
532 approach in less well habituated groups). Furthermore, the sample size for Mwera was
533 roughly half that of Sonso, and to calculate β diversity we had to exclude samples from

534 which we did not record any seeds (which only occurred in Mwera samples). Both factors
535 may have artificially increased the estimate of β diversity for Mwera samples and thus the
536 estimates are not sufficiently reliable to warrant interpretation.

537 Nevertheless, across measures, faecal samples provided a relatively good insight into the
538 identity of the most important feeding species, and remain an important tool in the
539 description of chimpanzee feeding behaviour, particularly for comparison of dietary
540 differences between communities.

541

542 ***Variation in extractive tool use opportunities between Budongo and Bugoma Forests***

543 Insectivory is rare in Budongo as well as in Kibale forest chimpanzees (Watts et al., 2012;
544 but see Mugisha et al. 2016), but common in other mid-western areas of Uganda (Semliki:
545 Webster et al., 2014; Bulindi: McLennan, 2014; Kalinzu: Koops et al., 2015). Across the four
546 communities and two forests in our sample, Kamira had the greatest abundance of termite
547 mounds, *Cubitermes ugandensis*, and ant nests, *Dorylus* spp, and Sonso the lowest, both in
548 Budongo. The presence of the research station at the centre of the Sonso community
549 territory likely afforded significant protection from illegal logging of mature trees over the past
550 30-years. However, Sonso also experienced the highest levels of active forest management
551 during the decades of timber production. This management appears to have changed the
552 composition of tree species (as seen in the diversity of species available for chimpanzee
553 feeding) and included the active use of tree-species pesticides and termite mound poisoning
554 (Reynolds 2005). In contrast, the Kamira chimpanzees' territory overlaps an area designated
555 as a Nature Reserve during timber production, and likely received the least invasive use of
556 management practice. The variation in insect nests may reflect the variation in the pattern of
557 human impact, with active management for timber production a possible factor in explaining
558 the low abundance of insect nests even decades after production stopped.

559 While this suggests that the Sonso chimpanzees have the lowest opportunity to feed on
560 termites and ants within our sample, opportunity is unlikely to fully explain the absence of
561 extractive tool use during foraging in Sonso chimpanzees (Grund et al. 2019). The
562 abundance of tool materials did not differ between the communities' home ranges, and,
563 while low, the abundance of termite and ant nests in Sonso was previously found to be
564 within the range of the densities at sites where tools are used to extract insects (Hedges and
565 McGrew, 2012).

566

567 ***Potential implications of the measured ecological variables on tool use***

568 Our study suggests that a high diversity and biomass of Known Feeding Trees in Sonso
569 underscores the Sonso chimpanzees' comparatively diverse and fruit-rich diet, and supports
570 previous work suggesting that the Sonso chimpanzees have the most diverse food
571 availability out of five Ugandan forest locations (Gruber et al., 2012). In previous work the
572 Kanyawara chimpanzees in Kibale forest were suggested to live in the least favourable
573 environment in terms of food diversity and quality but did not exhibit more extensive tool use
574 than other Uganda chimpanzee communities. As a result, the authors concluded that
575 ecological conditions could not completely explain observed differences in extractive tool use
576 for foraging (Gruber et al., 2012). In this study, we again find differences in food diversity and
577 quality across communities, even those with adjacent territories within the same forest area.
578 However, it is not known whether Kamira and Mwera chimpanzees engage in extractive tool
579 use behaviour (beyond sponging for water), and it appears that Waibira chimpanzees, like
580 Sonso chimpanzees, do not use stick tools (Mugisha et al., 2016), albeit after only a more
581 limited number of years of observation (currently 8 yrs). Nevertheless, the observations
582 available suggest that chimpanzees in Waibira have developed additional strategies relying
583 on tool use to acquire valuable proteins (using leaf tools to feed on *Dorylus* ants, Mugisha et
584 al., 2016) compared to the Sonso chimpanzees, where this behaviour has never been
585 observed in 25 years of continuous study. Once the four communities' tool repertoire is

586 known, it can be mapped together with our understanding of current and historic socio-
587 ecological conditions.

588 The study of chimpanzees in forest areas that lie intermediate between Budongo where
589 stick-tool use appears absent, and forest areas with communities that do employ stick-tool
590 use (for example in Kibale) is of significant interest. The Bulindi chimpanzee community lives
591 in a small riverine fragment less than 60km from Budongo, and has been shown to employ
592 stick-tool use to obtain honey (McLennan, 2014). The Budongo and Bulindi communities
593 show dramatic differences in habitat, particularly in respect to chimpanzee feeding tree
594 species, which may underlie their variation in diet and tool use (McLennan, 2014). But it
595 remains unknown whether or not the Bulindi chimpanzees a) re-innovated tool use in
596 response to the degradation of their fragmenting habitat, b) differed from other Budongo
597 communities before their forest areas diverged, or c) retained extractive stick tool use while
598 other Budongo communities lost it. The difficulty that chimpanzees experience in re-
599 innovating tool use (e.g. Gruber et al., 2011) suggests that option a) is either unlikely, or
600 requires substantial pressure. Once more information on the tool repertoires of the four
601 communities we studied becomes known, the ecological data we collected will help answer
602 these questions.

603 Nevertheless, based on our ecological findings, we predict that the Mwera community
604 engages in extractive tool use behaviour in a foraging context. Potential food availability and
605 tool use opportunities were comparatively low within the Mwera chimpanzee range, they
606 appear to have a less diverse diet than the Sonso chimpanzees, and are geographically
607 closer to the chimpanzee communities in both Kibale and Bulindi that use stick-tools. As
608 habituation improves, direct observations will allow us to test this prediction.

609 Future work exploring tool use, and variation in tool-using across chimpanzee communities
610 in the Budongo and Bugoma forests will be of particular interest to explanations for its
611 unusual absence in the Sonso chimpanzees. The information obtained can then be paired
612 with the ecological and dietary insights we gained in this study and contribute to our wider

613 understanding of the interactions between ecological and cognitive aspects of chimpanzee
614 tool use.

615

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621 **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

622 None of the authors experienced any conflict of interest.

623 **ETHNICAL APPROVAL**

624 All applicable international, national, and/or institutional guidelines for the care and use of
625 animals were followed.

626 **INFORMED CONSENT**

627 The research did not involve human participants. Research on wild chimpanzees was in
628 accordance with international guidelines and that of the research station.

629 **DATA AVAILABILITY**

630 All data was collected by the authors. If any raw data and/or analyses (incl. R-code) are
631 wanted the corresponding author, Iris Berger, can provide them.

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Figure captions

Figure 1. Map of the two study sites: Budongo and Bugoma forest. (Inset map copyright Matthew McLennan; reproduced here with permission)

Figure 2. Boxplot illustrating the median and the upper and lower quartiles of the (a) alpha and (b) beta diversity of Known Feeding Trees of the home ranges of the four communities. The communities from Budongo forest are shaded in yellow, and the Mwera community (Bugoma forest) is shaded in blue.

Figure 3. (a) Species rank abundance curve of Known Feeding Tree species recorded during the transects for each community's home range. Species richness is illustrated by the length of the line (i.e. the number of species) and species evenness is indicated by the steepness of the line (i.e. the abundance of a species in relation to the other species in the forest), which are both highest for Sonso. (b) Species accumulation curve for Known Feeding Trees depicting how the number of recorded Known Feeding Tree species increases the more transects we conducted. For any given number of transects, the number of recorded species was highest for Sonso, followed by Mwera. The areas shaded in show the 95% confidence intervals.

Figure 4. Non-Metric Multidimensional Scaling ordination plot of dissimilarities between the Known Feeding Tree community of the home ranges of the different chimpanzee communities. Each point represents a different transect and the closer the points are the more similar the transects are to each other. Thus, points of a given community are clustered together. Kaimira and Waibira are very similar to each other, whereas Sonso and Mwera differ, with more pronounced variation between the transects within Mwera.

Figure 5. Boxplot illustrating the median and the upper and lower quartiles of the number of termite mounds and ant nests per transect for each community's home range. The communities that are found in Budongo forest are shaded in yellow.

Figure 6. (a) Species rank abundance curves for the seeds identified in the faecal samples for the Sonso and Mwera chimpanzee communities. Species richness is illustrated by the length of the line (i.e. the number of species) and species evenness is indicated by the steepness of the line (i.e. the abundance of a species in relation to the other species in the forest): both are higher for the Sonso chimpanzees. (b) Species accumulation curve, illustrating how the number of species identified from seeds increases with the number of faecal samples analysed for both chimpanzee communities, which is higher for Sonso. The areas shaded in represent the 95% confidence intervals, which overlap.

Figures

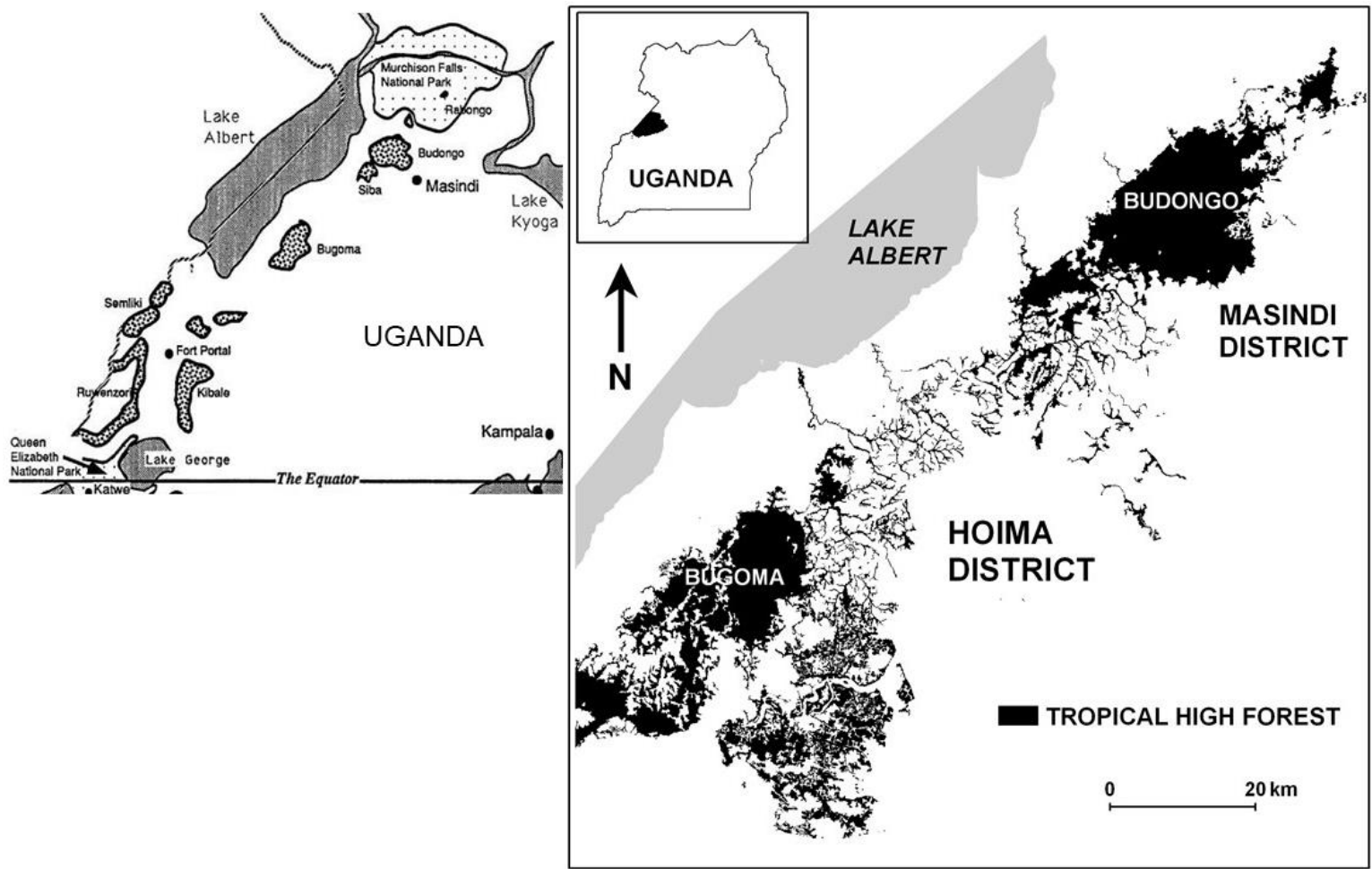


Figure 1

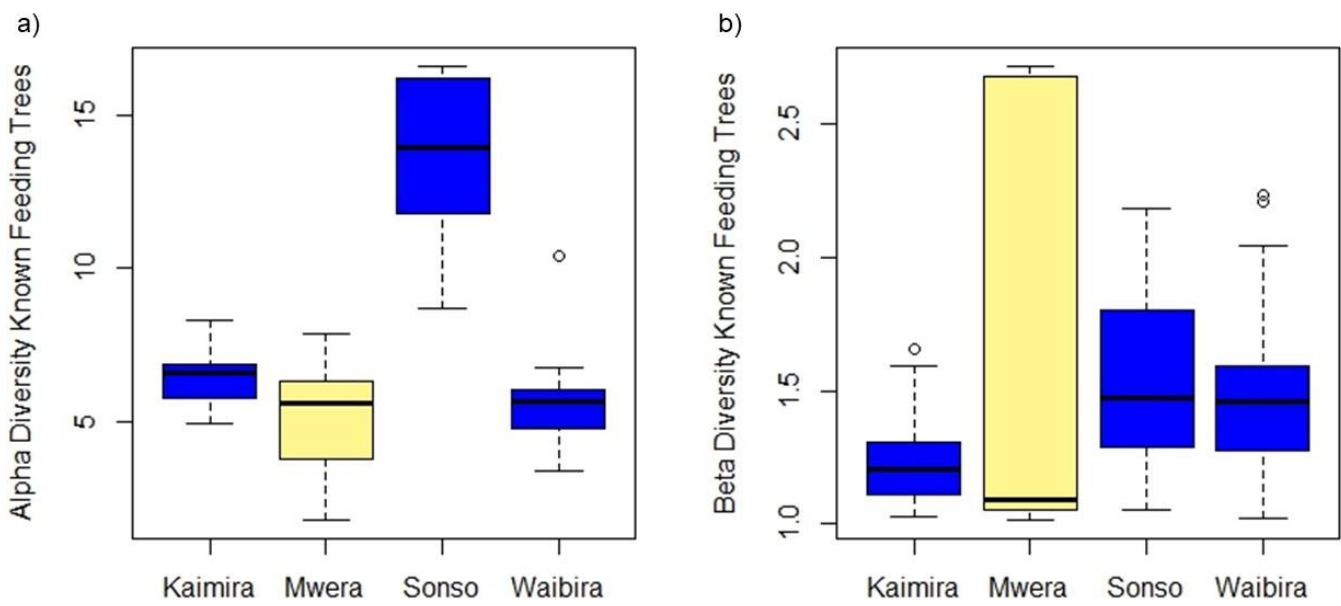


Figure 2

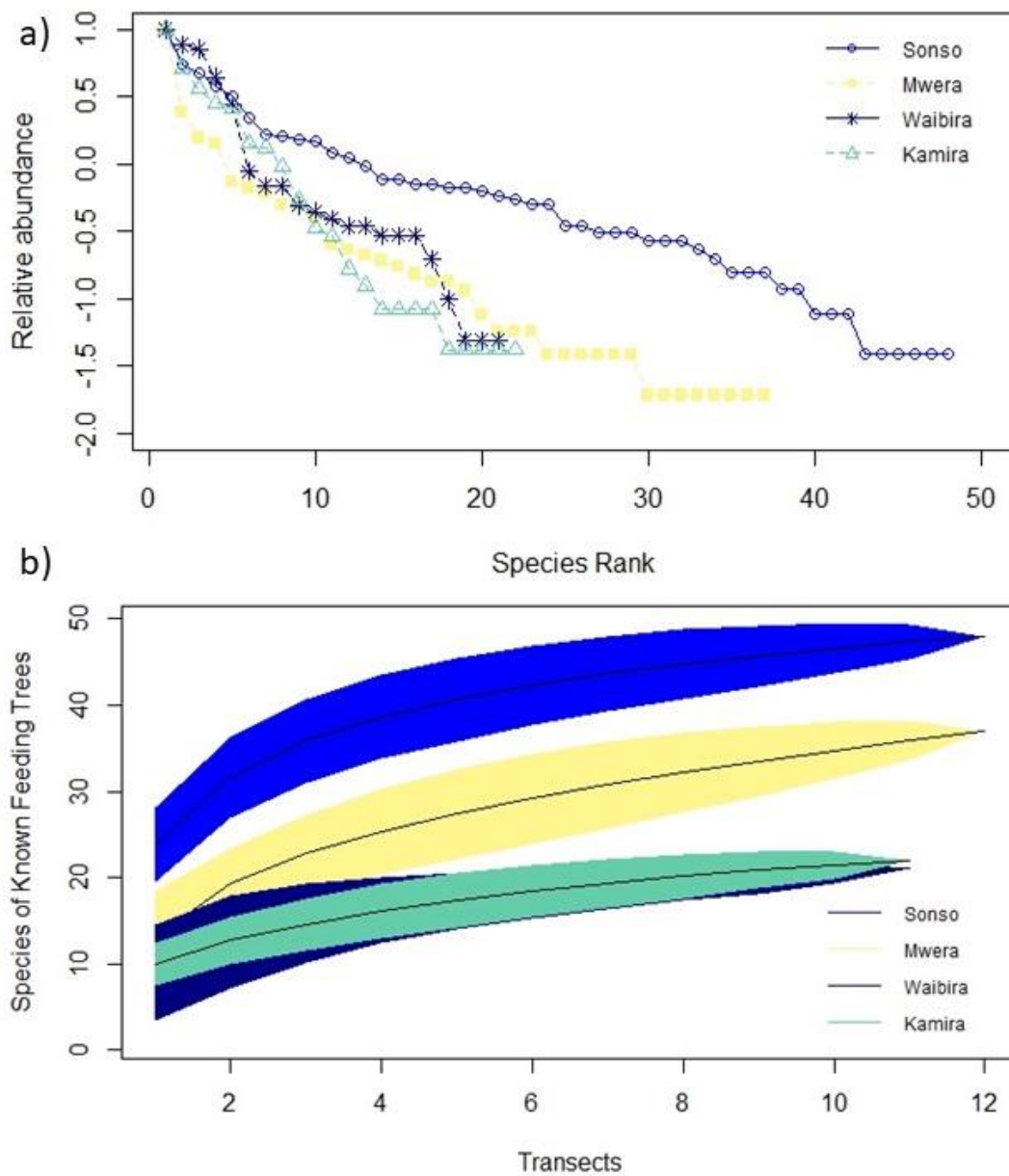


Figure 3

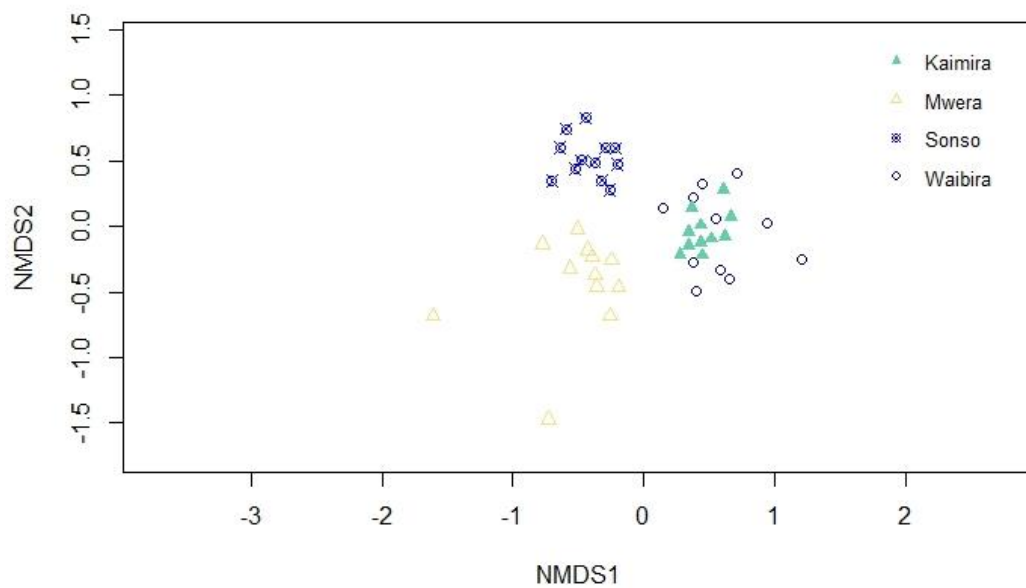


Figure 4

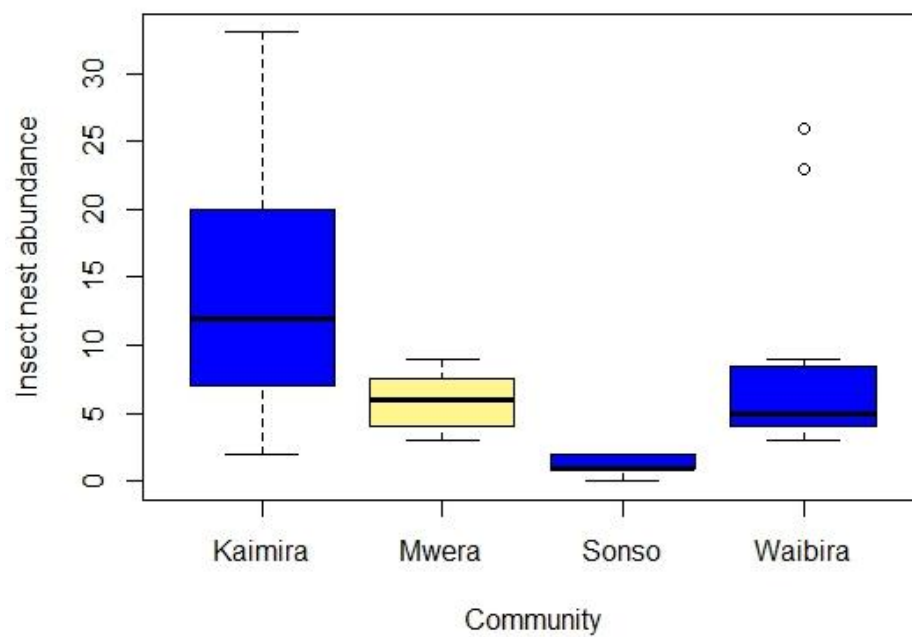


Figure 5

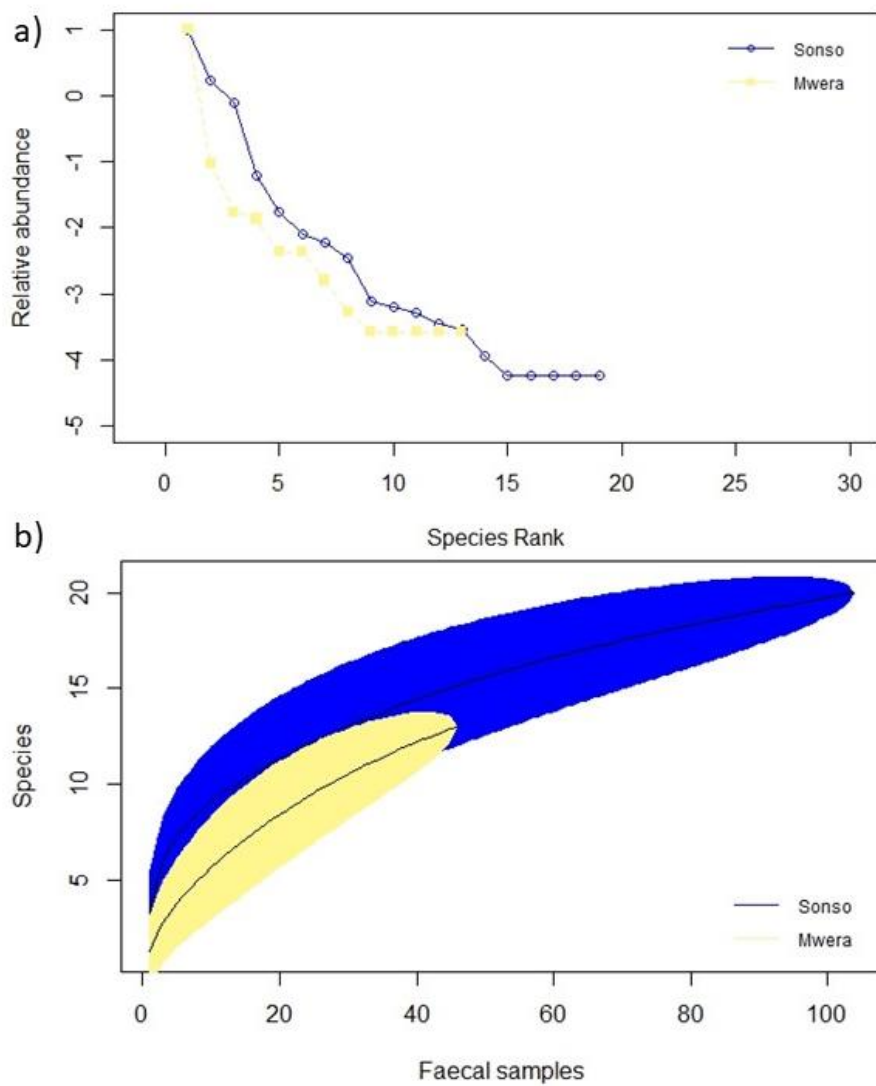


Figure 6

Table captions:

Table 1. The mean DBH and total DBH of all trees encountered during the transects (for Known Feeding Trees and Non-Feeding Trees) for each community. The communities from the Budongo forest are shaded grey.

Table 2. Diversity indices and Alpha, Beta and Gamma diversity of Known Feeding Trees for each community's range. The communities from the Budongo forest are shaded grey.

Table 3. Preferred Sonso chimpanzee feeding trees described by the percentage of time spent feeding. The species shaded in grey are non-native species introduced to the forest.

Table 4. Diversity indices, and Alpha, Beta and Gamma diversity of the seeds found in the faecal samples of the two communities.

Tables:

Table 1

Community		Mean DBH (cm±S.D.)	Summed DBH (cm±S.D.)
Mwera	Known Feeding Trees	25.1 ± 18.6	27215.2
	Non-Feeding Trees	22.2± 17.5	25933.2
Sonso	Known Feeding Trees	29.7 ± 28.0	38483.7
	Non-Feeding Trees	20.9± 14.7	17905.6
Waibira	Known Feeding Trees	27.4 ± 20.6	20384.0
Kaimira	Known Feeding Trees	27.9 ± 29.9	21000.0

Table 2

Known Feeding Trees				
Shannon- Wiener	Horn	α	β	Γ

Mwera	1.56	0.35	5.15	1.57	8.17
Sonso	2.59	0.42	13.59	1.55	21.23
Waibira	1.70	0.38	5.70	1.49	8.49
Kaimira	1.86	0.21	6.40	1.24	7.94

Table 3

Feeding observations		Faecal samples	
Species	Percentage	Species	Percentage
<i>Cordia millenii</i>	17.92	<i>Ficus</i> spp	79.53
<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	17.10	<i>Broussonetia papyrifera</i>	11.24
<i>Ficus mucuso</i>	14.89	<i>Psidium guajava</i>	8.76
<i>Ficus variifolia</i>	8.87	<i>Myrianthus holstii</i>	0.067
<i>Ficus exasperate</i>	5.47	<i>Cordia millenii</i>	0.039
<i>Desplatsia dewevrei</i>	4.35	<i>Maesopsis eminii</i>	0.0081
<i>Treculia Africana</i>	3.84	<i>Mildbraediodendron</i>	0.0065
		<i>excelsum</i>	
<i>Cola gigantea</i>	3.69	<i>Desplatsia dewevrei</i>	0.0057
<i>Khaya anhoteca</i>	3.47	<i>Pseudospondias</i>	0.0024
		<i>microcarpa</i>	
<i>Syzygium guinense</i>	3.10	<i>Chrysophyllum</i>	0.0016
		<i>gorungosanum</i>	

Table 4

Sonso	Mwera
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Shannon- Wiener	Horn	α	β	γ	Shannon- Wiener	Horn	α	β	γ
0.43	0.46	1.61	1.70	2.42	0.054	0.50	1.07	1.85	1.75