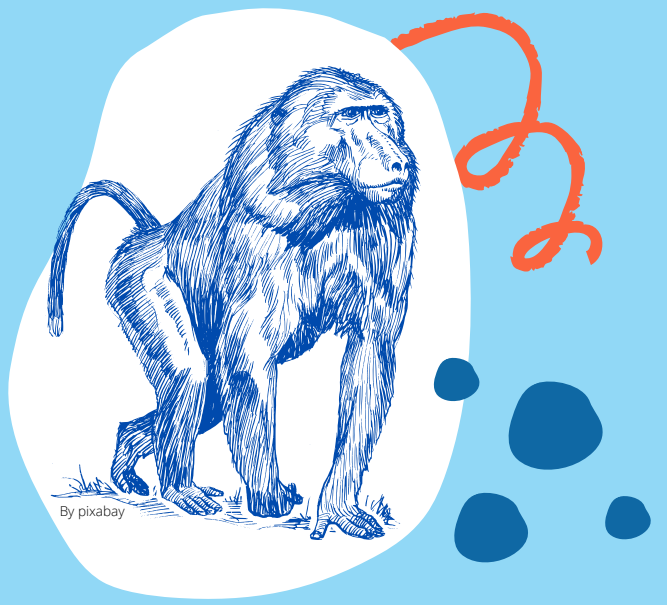


# WHY DO MALE BABOONS KILL INFANTS?



## INFANTICIDE

Infanticide occurs when an adult male kills an infant of their own species (4). This phenomenon is common among baboon populations (5).



By Diana Robinson

## BABOON MATING PATTERNS

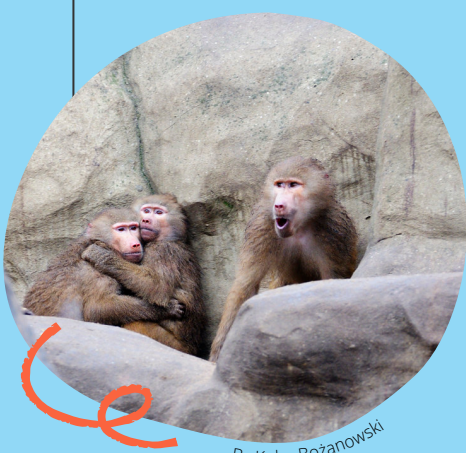
- Males mate with multiple females, so they put more effort into mating competition than into infant care (1).
- Males kill dependent infants of new mothers to end the mother's lactating period and mate with her sooner (1).

## UNSTABLE TIMES PROMOTE INFANTICIDE

- Entry of new male into a group (1,2,3,5)
- Male competition + aggression (1,2,3,5)
- Changes in male dominance ranking (1,2,3,5)



By Elise Huchard



By Kuba Bozanowski

## MALE-FEMALE FRIENDSHIPS FOR PROTECTION

- Baboons have evolved close pair-bonds (4,5)
- Males benefit by enhancing offspring fitness (3)
- Females (and infants) gain protection from harassment and infanticidal attacks from other males (5)

## INCREASED STRESS HORMONES

- Glucocorticoid (GC) is a hormone group that indicates stress levels in both male and female baboons (1,2)

↑ Risk of infanticide (infant lives are threatened)

↑ Female GC levels

↑ Female counter-strategies (e.g. friendship with male)

↑ Male dominance rank instability

↑ Male GC levels

↑ Infanticidal attacks to maintain rank

(1,2)

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