

1 **EVIDENCE FOR SOCIAL LEARNING IN WILD LEMURS (*LEMUR CATT*A).**

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13
14 **ABSTRACT**

15 Interest in social learning has been fuelled by claims of ‘culture’ in wild animals. These
16 remain controversial because alternative explanations to social learning, such as asocial
17 learning or ecological differences, remain difficult to refute. Compared to in the laboratory,
18 the study of social learning in natural contexts is in its infancy. Here, we apply two new
19 statistical methods (Option Bias Analysis and Network Based Diffusion Analysis) for the first
20 time to data from the wild, complemented by standard inferential statistics. Contrary to
21 common thought regarding the cognitive abilities of prosimian primates, we find evidence
22 consistent with social learning, within sub-groups, in the Ring-tailed lemur (*Lemur catta*),
23 supporting the theory of directed social learning (Coussi-Korbel & Fragaszy, 1995). We also
24 caution that, as the tool-box for capturing social learning in natural contexts grows, care is
25 required in ensuring the methods employed are appropriate, in particular regarding social
26 dynamics of study subjects.

27
28 **Running Head:** social learning in wild lemurs

29
30 **Key words:** social learning, lemur, rank, directed social learning, option-bias analysis,
31 network based diffusion analysis.

32

33

34 INTRODUCTION

35 Social learning, or learning from others, is of widespread current interest because it
36 potentially provides a means by which animals can acquire adaptive information about their
37 environment rapidly and efficiently. Social learning is thought to underlie the rapid diffusion
38 of novel behavioral variants, inter-population variation in behavior, and cultural traditions, in
39 animals from fishes to apes (Lefebvre & Palameta, 1988; Rendell & Whitehead 2001;
40 Warner, 1988; Whiten, 1999). Interest in animal social learning has also been fuelled by
41 reports of intra- and inter-population variation in the behavioral repertoires of animal
42 populations, spawning claims of ‘culture’ in apes (McGrew 1998; van Schaik et al., 2003;
43 Whiten et al., 1999) cetaceans (Krützen et al., 2005; Rendell & Whitehead 2001), and
44 monkeys (Leca, Gunst, & Huffman, 2007; Perry et al., 2003). However, claims that these
45 data demonstrate animal cultures remain controversial because alternative explanations to
46 social learning, such as genetic proclivities or ecological differences, remain difficult to
47 refute (see Laland et al., 2009) despite innovative work in captivity (eg. Whiten, Spiteri,
48 Horner, Bonnie et al. 2007). Moreover, as learning is frequently functional, adaptive, based
49 on genetic proclivities, and responsive to ecological resources, the current ‘ethnographic’
50 method, which proclaims culture where the alternatives can be dismissed, is vulnerable to
51 excluding genuine cases of social learning. Thus, compared to the controlled laboratory study
52 of social learning, and despite pioneering work with apes and cetaceans (see Whiten et al.,
53 1999; Sargeant & Mann 2009; Whitehead, 2009), we are lacking in tools for unequivocally
54 capturing social learning in natural contexts, whether in the wild or captivity.

55

56 Recently, however, several statistical methods have been created to aid in the task of
57 identifying social learning in naturalistic contexts (eg. Boogert, Reader, Hoppitt, & Laland,
58 2008; Kendal, Kendal, & Laland, 2007; Kendal, Kendal, Hoppitt, & Laland, 2009a; Franz &
59 Nunn, 2009; Matthews, 2009). We presented a solution to the problem, in the form of a
60 method known as *option-bias analysis* (Kendal et al., 2009a). The method is based on the
61 well-established premise of social learning research, that –when ecological and genetic
62 differences are accounted for - social learning can generate greater homogeneity in behavior
63 between animals than expected in its absence (but see Thornton & Malapert 2009). For
64 example, when probing for termites in their mound, chimpanzees are reported to use either a
65 short- or long-twig method (Whiten et al., 1999) and when manufacturing ‘wide’ *Pandanus*
66 leaf tools New Caledonian Crows, *Corvus moneduloides*, have three variants available to
67 them (Holzhaider, Hunt & Gray, this issue). If this behavior is learned socially then a given

68 population may disproportionately use one method, whereas if it is learned asocially one
69 might expect use of both methods in proportion to their opportunity and profitability. Thus,
70 provided alternative forms of bias can be ruled out (e.g. genetic or ecological), the level of
71 homogeneity of behavior within a population potentially provides a metric that can be used
72 probabilistically to detect a social influence on learning. In order to test for social learning in
73 the observed data, however, the probability that option biases of the magnitude observed in
74 the actual data could be the result of chance or asocial learning alone must be computed.

75

76 The option-bias method compares the observed level of homogeneity to a sampling
77 distribution generated utilizing randomization and other procedures, allowing claims of social
78 learning to be evaluated according to consensual standards. The approach circumvents the
79 inherent problems arising from the lack of a controlled ‘demonstrator-observer’ scenario,
80 tasks that afford few alternatives for solution, incomplete data, small group sizes and low
81 statistical power. Thus it was hoped that the method would prove useful to other researchers
82 attempting to distinguish social and asocial learning in social contexts and provide a new and
83 potentially valuable tool for the identification of cultural traditions. Accordingly, the R code
84 is freely available¹ for others to apply this method, which can be deployed within controlled
85 experimental and captive animal settings and to natural datasets too. Crucially, the method
86 does not require the researcher to record the inception and initial spread of the trait which
87 further enhances its utility in natural populations. The method was illustrated through
88 application to data from groups of Callitrichid monkeys provided with novel two option
89 extractive foraging tasks, providing evidence that social learning could be distinguished from
90 unlearned processes and asocial learning, and revealing that the monkeys only employed
91 social learning for the more difficult tasks (Kendal et al., 2009a). The method was further
92 validated against published datasets, showing social learning using standard statistics, and
93 through simulation, and exhibited higher statistical power than conventional inferential
94 statistics (ibid).

95

96 An alternative technique, recently developed by Franz and Nunn (2009; this issue) and
97 extended upon by Hoppitt and colleagues (Hoppitt, Boogert & Laland, 2010; Hoppitt,
98 Kandler, Kendal & Laland, this issue) is Network Based Diffusion Analysis (NBDA). Here,
99 rather than focusing on homogeneity of behavior, the social network of a group is utilized to

¹ Much of the freeware for these methods can be found at <http://lalandlab.st-andrews.ac.uk/freeware.html>

100 identify social learning. The method is based on the intuitive yet understudied and
101 unsupported (see Boogert et al., 2008) theory of directed social learning (Coussi-Korbel &
102 Fragaszy 1995) that information is transmitted or directed through sub-sections of non-
103 human primate populations at different rates according to age, sex, status or association
104 patterns. Accordingly in NBDA social learning opportunities are assumed to be constrained
105 by a social network such that the probability of learning from skilled individuals is dictated
106 by the strength of connection to them. The approach requires as inputs (i) a social network
107 which may be asymmetrical, for example grooming, or symmetrical, for example proximity
108 and (ii) diffusion data represented as either the order of acquisition - (OADA, Hoppitt et al.
109 2010) or timing of acquisition - (TADA, Franz & Nunn, this issue) of a novel behavior
110 pattern. In the extended NBDA/TADA method, agent based models of social and asocial
111 learning (relating to the social network) and pure asocial learning (regardless of the network)
112 are fit to the observed diffusion data using maximum likelihood estimation. The model with
113 the best fit to the data is then identified using the Akaike information criterion. The authors
114 designed the method as a more reliable alternative to the use of diffusion curve analysis
115 (Reader, 2004) in assessing evidence for social learning in free-living animals and as such
116 made the R code freely available alongside their paper (Franz & Nunn 2009) and assess its
117 utility in the field (this issue). Although the method requires more substantial data than the
118 option-bias method it has the potential to be used to assess the evidence for social learning
119 strategies (Laland, 2004), especially regarding from whom individuals learn. Development
120 of the embryonic empirical investigation of social learning strategies (Kendal, Coolen, van
121 Bergen & Laland, 2005; Kendal, Coolen & Laland, 2009b) in the wild can contribute
122 extensively to our understanding of the evolution of human cultural capacities by facilitating
123 comparative analysis.

124

125 These alternative simulation and modeling methods will be most powerful when used
126 alongside more conventional inferential statistics such as those used by other researchers of
127 free-living groups. For example, Perry (2009) in analysis of an extensive long-term data set
128 used generalized linear models to investigate the assumption that the proportion of learned
129 behavioral variants observed by an individual predicts the proportion of learned behavioral
130 variants performed. Specifically, such regression analyses revealed that the technique most
131 frequently observed for accessing seeds from *Luehea candida* fruits, during development,
132 significantly predicted the technique adopted by female, and to a lesser extent, male white
133 faced capuchins (*Cebus capucinus*) in the wild. An alternative measure of the influence of

134 observational opportunities on subsequent learning is an investigation of the relationship
135 between the ‘learning time’ (latency between first contact and first success) and the latency of
136 first contact (Day, 2003; Boogert et al., 2008). Here, a negative relationship is assumed to
137 indicate social learning as those who contacted the task later are thought to have had
138 increased observational opportunities and would thus have a reduced ‘learning time’. Finally,
139 we may profit, if only opportunistically where groups are not exposed to demonstrations of a
140 novel behavioral variant by the experimenter, from techniques developed by researchers
141 using the ‘two group with control’ method in captivity (e.g. Hopper et al., 2007; Whiten,
142 Horner, & de Waal, 2005). Consistent with the option-bias assumptions, traditions are
143 identified by determining whether there is a statistical difference between groups, seeded
144 with demonstrators trained in alternate techniques to gain a resource, in the proportion of one
145 (of the two) alternative techniques used.

146

147 Our aim is to use a variety of methods in combination to test for social learning in foraging
148 data collected from wild ring tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*), and to reflect on any constraints
149 upon their use and other methodological considerations. As the observation of a novel
150 behavior (or innovation) in the wild is opportunistic, we adopt the strategy of a field
151 experiment (see Reader & Biro, this issue). Here we introduce artificial extractive foraging
152 tasks and monitor the spread of the novel behavior pattern. This has the advantage that we
153 may observe the inception of the novel trait and test for social learning to solve the task and
154 also the preference for extraction variants afforded by the task’s design. Also as transmission
155 of information may only occur when the task is in place, we may be sure that we do not miss
156 any transmission events – a common worry with more opportunistic data collection regarding
157 naturally occurring ‘tasks’(eg. termite fishing) in the field (see Franz & Nunn, this issue).

158

159 *Lemur catta* live in multimale-multifemale groups of 5 to 27 individuals with a 1:1 sex ratio,
160 female philopatry and male dispersal (Gould 1997; Nakamichi, Rakototiana & Koyama,
161 1997). They exhibit top-down ‘despotic hierarchies’ (Sapolsky, 2005) and adult females are
162 dominant over males (Jolly 1996) and although rank order in both sexes is usually linear, it
163 can occasionally be triangular (Koyama, Ichino, Nakamichi & Takahata, 2005). Unlike
164 Cercopithecine monkeys, adult daughters are not always ranked below their mothers
165 (Koyama *et al.*, 2005). Mothers, daughters and sisters often form affiliated pairs or triads,
166 while barely tolerating more distantly related relatives (such as cousins or granddaughters)
167 (Jolly & Pride, 1999). There are conflicting reports regarding the cognitive abilities of

168 lemurs with some reporting minimal comprehension when presented with novel foraging
169 tasks (Fornasieri, Anderson, & Roeder, 1990; Anderson, Fornasieri, Ludes, & Roeder, 1992)
170 or objects (Jolly, 1966), and others suggesting that lemurs learn to use tools as quickly as
171 haplorhine species and, in some cases, more flexibly (Santos, Mahajan & Barnes, 2005).
172 Lemur species are, however, understudied in the field of social learning. An early open
173 diffusion study of a single captive group of *Lemur catta* faced with a novel foraging task
174 (Kappeler, 1987), whilst describing possible patterns of innovation and social transmission,
175 did not attempt to assess the learning mechanisms (social or asocial) involved. Likewise, a
176 study of the naturally occurring phenomenon of ‘drinking from tails’ in captive *Lemur catta*
177 although suggestive of social learning offered no information regarding the transmission of
178 the novel behavior pattern as it was already well established in the group (Hosey, Jacques &
179 Pitts, 1997). Several studies of the introduction of novel foraging tasks in lemurs have,
180 however, reported a strong influence of social rank upon access to novel tasks and
181 consequent expression of the novel trait in individuals, whether through social or asocial
182 learning (Kappeler, 1987; Anderson et al., 1992; Fornasieri et al., 1990).

183

184 In this paper we aim to apply the Option Bias and NBDA methods for the first time to data
185 from the wild, complemented by standard inferential statistical techniques. In doing so, we
186 examine the use of the methods in a species with strong social hierarchies and in particular
187 extend the option bias method for use with tasks of more than two options and with
188 underlying biases in their use.

189

190 **METHODS**

191

192 **II Data Collection**

193 *Study Site and Participants*

194 Two medium-sized groups of ring-tailed lemurs (*Lemur catta*) from Berenty Reserve,
195 Southern Madagascar, were selected for the purposes of this study. Berenty Reserve consists
196 of a 200 ha area of natural gallery forest, transitional scrub and spiny desert (Budnitz &
197 Dainis, 1975). The home ranges of the selected lemur troops overlapped with tourist
198 accommodation so they were very well habituated to humans. In addition, the demographic
199 histories of most troop members were known since they have been studied on a regular basis
200 since the 1990s (Nakamichi, Rakototiana & Koyama 1997).

201

202 The two study troops were given the letter and number codes YF and T1B by Koyama and
203 his colleagues, henceforth labeled group 1 and group 2, respectively. Group 1 comprised 13
204 lemurs: six adult females (three years or older), two unweaned infants, one juvenile female
205 (1-2 years old) and four adult males. Group 2 consisted of 15 lemurs: six adult females, three
206 unweaned infants, one juvenile female and five adult males. The ages, dominance ranks (as
207 indicated by Nakamichi) and kin relationships are illustrated in figure 1.

208

209 [Figure 1 – group diagram]

210

211 **Materials**

212 The lemurs were presented with a two-action puzzle feeder (Figure 2). The feeder was
213 comprised of an 8cm long by 8cm wide transparent Perspex or plexiglass tube that was
214 enclosed at each end by 1cm thick pieces of wood. A 4cm diameter hole was cut halfway
215 down the length of the tube into which was inserted a plastic food cup. A hinged aluminum
216 metal flap (6cm wide by 7cm high) was attached to the tube. The flap was curved so that it
217 fitted snugly against the tube. A 2cm high by 1cm wide aluminum rod was fixed just above
218 the flap's hinge. The rod ensured the flap fell back into place over the food cup unless it was
219 continually held up. The flap had a 4cm diameter hole cut into it, which was aligned with the
220 food cup. A 0.5cm thick aluminum disc of 5cm diameter was fixed to the flap just above the
221 hole using a metal pin. A lug-nut was fitted to the top right of the disc so that it would only
222 swivel to the left. A combination of banana pellets, mashed banana, papaya and custard apple
223 was loaded into the food cup as reinforcement. Thus, the lemurs could access the food reward
224 by either *swivelling* the disc to the left or *lifting/flipping* the flap (Figure 2a&b).

225

226 To prevent monopolization of a single task by dominant individuals, four to six tubes were
227 presented simultaneously during each day of testing. The tubes were positioned
228 approximately 30cm from the ground and were wedged between forks in the branches of
229 trees or between the trunks of close growing saplings. Pilot studies using small open wooden
230 boxes indicated that if test apparatus were placed too close together, one or two high ranking
231 lemurs would monopolize access. Thus the tubes were presented at two sites 10 to 15 meters
232 apart. At each site, the tubes were placed three to four meters apart from one another (Figure
233 2c). The lemurs' behavior was recorded using two Sony camcorders fixed to tripods.

234

235 [Figure 2 – task apparatus here]

236

237 ***Procedure***

238 Group 1 was tested first (between 4th to the 14th of October 2006). Testing commenced at
239 07:00 on each of ten consecutive days. Each testing session was 30 minutes long. There were
240 two experimenters each of whom stood by one of the two camcorders and called out the
241 names of each lemur that approached the tubes. The tubes were removed, refilled with food
242 and replaced after 15 minutes of testing.

243

244 Following completion of testing with group 1, testing commenced with Group 2 (between
245 21st October to 7th November 2006). Since group 1 showed a preponderance of flipping over
246 swivelling, group 2 was seeded with swivelling demonstrators to ascertain whether they
247 would learn a relatively non-preferred method. Two tubes, that could only be swivelled as the
248 flaps were screwed shut, were placed into position. The two highest ranking females (TP and
249 PE) monopolized these tubes during the demonstration phase and quickly learned to swivel.
250 The tubes were presented in this manner, for 15 minutes, on each of eight consecutive days.
251 During that time, only one other female (HC: the three year old daughter of PE) managed to
252 gain access on one occasion and swivelled the disc twice. Thus, she was counted as a
253 demonstrator thereafter. Throughout the demonstration phase only HC, PE and TP
254 approached the tubes. Most of the other lemurs sat between 5 and 10 meters away; if they
255 approached any closer they were chased away by TP or PE, thus we are confident that non-
256 demonstrators only observed task manipulations, rather than interacted with the task, during
257 this phase.

258

259 After the demonstration phase, tubes that could be opened by either swivelling or flipping
260 were placed in the same configuration as for group 1 for 30 minutes on each of 10
261 consecutive days (Figure 2). The same procedure was followed as when testing group 1
262 except for one day. On day 6, a subgroup of three males was located approximately 30 meters
263 away from the usual testing area. Since males were habitually chased away by females
264 whenever they approached a tube, we took this opportunity to give them access to the
265 apparatus. Thus, we placed the tubes in trees adjacent to the peripheral subgroup of males
266 rather than in the usual testing area.

267

268 Once testing was complete, two independent observers analyzed the digital video film of the
269 testing sessions. The latency since session start, the subject's letter code, their action upon the

270 tube (Table 1), the tube part manipulated (disc, right side of flap, left side of flap or bottom of
271 flap), the body part used (nose, left hand or right hand), whether the subject was successful or
272 unsuccessful in obtaining a food reward, who was in proximity and at what distance from the
273 tube (within zones of approximately 0-1m and >1m to 3m) and whether they were observing
274 (the face being orientated towards the task) during a conspecific's task manipulation were
275 noted. There was 'very good' (Altman 1991) inter-observer reliability according to Cohen
276 Kappa scores for two sessions from one site (5% of total testing with 273 separate task
277 manipulations) for the action (0.85) and body part used (0.94), as well as for proximity (<1m
278 and >1-3m) of conspecifics to the task (0.92) and whether they were 'observing' during
279 manipulations (0.83).

280

281 Baseline data were collected in the mornings and afternoons after testing to determine social
282 dynamics outside of testing sessions. Proximity data were collected using focal subject
283 sampling. Each focal session was 3 minutes long with data taken as point samples each
284 minute. The identification of each lemur that was within one metre proximity of the focal
285 subject was noted. Sixty such focals were collected per lemur between 30th September to the
286 23rd of November 2006. The subjects were sampled in a randomized order.

287

288 [Table 1 – definitions]

289

290 *Asocial Learning Controls*

291 Control subjects were four adult male ring tailed lemurs (ages 6-7 years) living in a social
292 group at Zoo Atlanta. Each lemur was tested individually and out of visual range of the other
293 group members. For each subject a device similar to that described above, was loaded with 5
294 grapes and hung from the cage mesh with both defenses (flip and swivel) enabled before the
295 start of the session. Sessions began when a single subject was shifted into the cage with the
296 device and ended after 10 minutes (for 4 of 6 sessions) or after 10 minutes of no interaction
297 with the device (2 of 6 sessions). Two subjects that interacted with the device immediately
298 received one session; one subject refused to interact with the device on his first session but
299 did successfully interact on a second session. The final subject refused to interact with the
300 device on two sessions; given his fear response to the device, no additional sessions were
301 attempted. A video camera set up in an adjacent cage at a 45 degree angle was used to record
302 all interactions with the device, and data on 1) latency of and method used (swivel or flip), 2)

303 body part used (nose or L or R hand) and 3) success/no success in obtaining a food reward
304 were extracted from the video recording.

305

306

307 **II Statistical Methods**

308 *Assessing Social Dynamics*

309 During testing of each group DC made qualitative estimates of any apparent sub-groupings.
310 Sociograms, a systematic method for representing subjects as points or nodes, with the
311 relationships between them illustrated using lines (Moreno 1960), were constructed using the
312 baseline proximity data collected outside of testing sessions. Finally, to test whether our
313 assignment of individuals to subgroups was reasonable, we carried out permutation
314 (randomization) tests on a measure of modularity (Newman and Girvan 2004, see Kasper &
315 Voelkl 2009) in a directed social network within each group, where the strength of the
316 connection (edge weighting) between any two individuals was measured by the number of
317 times two individuals were within 1m proximity of each other during the baseline data
318 collection sessions (using the modularity function in the R (2.10.1) package ‘igraph’ (v0.5.3),
319 written by Gabor Csardi). Individuals that were members of a group but not assigned to a
320 subgroup were assigned membership to their own unique singleton ‘subgroups’. The null
321 distribution of modularity scores was derived by randomly assigning individuals to
322 subgroups, repeated over 10,000 iterations (keeping subgroup sizes constant).

323

324 *Standard Inferential Statistics*

325 In all analyses the behavior of the trained demonstrators (found only in group 2) is excluded,
326 with the exception of task manipulations produced by the demonstrators that are observed by
327 conspecifics, which are incorporated into analyses of the predictive power of observational
328 opportunities on behavior. Non-parametric tests were used when parametric assumptions
329 were not met. Where multiple tests were conducted, the family-wise error rate was controlled
330 for by modifying the significance level of alpha, designated in the text as α^* . For each family
331 of tests $\alpha^* = \alpha/c$, where $\alpha=0.05$ and c denotes the number of tests.

332

333 To examine ‘learning time’ in the despotic *Lemur catta* we adapted the method of using
334 success latency minus contact latency (Day, 2003), developed with the more egalitarian
335 Callitrichid species. Thus, we calculated a ‘total time at the task prior to success’ [success
336 latency - (contact latency + time not present at task)] to account for the skewed pattern of

337 access to resources within groups (Sapolsky, 2005). In addition, we did not assess the
338 relationship between learning time and task contact latency as an indicator of social learning,
339 as this assumes that later contactors have observed more task manipulations than earlier
340 contactors (Day, 2003; Boogert et al., 2008). Instead, we investigated the relationship
341 between ‘learning time’ and the number of successful manipulations observed prior to
342 success, as the latter provides a direct measure of observational opportunities.

343

344 *Option-Bias Analysis*

345 As emphasized by Kendal et al. (2009a) the underlying assumption of the method – social
346 learning leads to homogeneity of behavior – calls for researchers to assess whether
347 homogeneity is expected in their context, to account for other factors (eg. genetics, ecology)
348 responsible for homogeneity, and to use a level of population analysis appropriate to the
349 given context. It was also emphasized that the method may be used where there are more
350 than two options for solution. The presentation of novel tasks to wild ring tailed lemurs
351 allowed us to apply the method where these factors come into play.

352

353 Group structure or modes of transmission may cause heterogeneity of behavior between
354 cliques within groups. As there were distinct sub-groups, only within which the close
355 proximity of members was tolerated, the option bias analyses were conducted at the level of
356 group and sub-group. The options used were categorized, and analyses conducted
357 accordingly, into 2 broad options (flip/swivel); 3 options related to the subjects’ approach to
358 flip (forward flip (ff)/over the top flip (otff)/ up and under flip (uuf); see Table 1); and 6
359 body-part options (flip vs. swivel by body part used – left or right hand and nose). Swivel
360 was not broken down into further options as the disc’s left-turn only movement, restricted
361 variability in methods used.

362

363 The option-bias method calculates a chi-square value as a metric of within-group
364 homogeneity of behavior. In contrast to the callitrichid data previously analyzed using the
365 method (Kendal, et al., 2009a), there appeared to be prior biases for use of the different
366 options. Thus, we altered the original method by deriving *expected* values for the chi-square
367 metric probabilistically to assume independence across the cells of an option-by-group
368 contingency table, rather than assuming an equal probability of each option for the expected
369 value, as used in Kendal et al (2009a) (see supplementary material for the new function
370 code).

371

372 The method explicitly allows for the inputting of any underlying biases in option use when
373 conducting power analyses or gaining estimates of Type I error. For the broad option bias
374 analyses we calculated the underlying bias in use of flip vs. swivel using the asocial learning
375 controls (from Zoo Atlanta) and overall option use in the two open diffusions (note that the
376 latter measure gives us a conservative assessment of social learning on within-group
377 homogeneity over and above the influence of genetic/ecological biases and is used on the
378 basis that any overall bias need not necessarily reflect within group homogeneity that results
379 from social learning). Of the four asocial learning control individuals, one did not interact
380 with the task and 3 did. Of these, one showed no clear preference (f:s=3:4) and two showed
381 some preference for flip (f:s=10:3, 5:2) giving an average of flip being 2.9 times more likely
382 than swivel. Excluding demonstrators, the overall option use in the two open diffusion
383 groups (flip=3237, swivel=437) indicated that flip was 7.4 times more likely than swivel. The
384 average of these preference values (for the controls and open diffusions) gives an underlying
385 ratio for each option of 5 to 1 (f:s) which may be input as an underlying bias in option use.
386 We also conduct a more accurate measure of the power to detect social learning by including,
387 in the model, an estimate of the probability of asocial learning causing repeated use of one
388 option over the other. This is as opposed to the initial option-bias calculation which sets
389 alpha at 0.5. Here, we used the three asocial learning controls and the innovator from the
390 unseeded open diffusion. All four individuals used the same option in their first and second
391 manipulation, giving a strength of association (α) causing return to the same option of one
392 ($4/4$ (using same) - $0/4$ (using different, equivalent to chance probability of using same) =
393 $4/4$). Finally, in analyses of option bias in the three flip options, we were limited in
394 parametrization of both the underlying bias and uncertainty in alpha as the asocial learning
395 controls did not provide useful data: due to task placement, they were unable to conduct
396 manipulations requiring them to approach the task from behind and over the top (ottf) or
397 behind and underneath (uuf), but were restricted to approaching the tube from the front and
398 forward flipping (ff). However, excluding demonstrators, the overall flip option use in the
399 two open diffusion groups gave an estimated underlying bias for ff:ottf:uuf of 94:4:1.

400

401 All simulations were repeated 10,000 times.

402

403 *Network Based Diffusion Analysis*

404 The NBDA analysis does not assess social learning of particular task options but of the task
405 in general. In applying the method we used diffusions based on the time of acquisition (first
406 successful task manipulation), coded using 20 second time intervals, for each for each
407 individual. Two social networks were used in this analysis: (1) As we were interested in the
408 role of rank-related directed social learning, the social network used in the analysis was a
409 matrix of absolute rank differences among individuals (rank being indicated by Nakamichi).
410 We used two symmetrical matrices, one in which high values indicated a large difference in
411 rank and one in which they indicated a small difference in rank. Thus any significant finding
412 of social learning would indicate that individuals are more likely to learn from (and follow in
413 the diffusion) individuals that have a large rank difference to themselves or a very similar
414 rank, respectively. (2) As within group structuring is strong in *Lemur catta* we also ran the
415 analysis using proximity matrices for each group. Here the symmetrical matrices represented
416 the number of point samples in which individuals were within 1m of each other during
417 baseline data collection. As all matrices had a high average connection strength, analyses
418 began with the parameter *tau* (which determines the probability of social learning at each
419 time step given the connection strengths between naïve and experienced individuals) bounded
420 between 0 and 1 and the asocial learning parameter set at 0.5.

421

422

423 **RESULTS**

424 Following assessment of the groups' social dynamics, the results section is divided into a
425 series of standard inferential statistics and a series of modeling/simulation based methods for
426 assessing the evidence for social learning in the data.

427

428 **Social Dynamics**

429 The qualitative sub-groupings apparent to DC during testing (1: TA-TI-AL, CA-CU-RA,
430 remainder singletons; 2: HE-SE-WM, WH-RE, TP-PE-HC (demonstrators), remainder
431 singletons) were reflected to an extent in the sociograms constructed from the baseline data
432 (figure 3). The permutation tests (Newman & Girvan 2004), using this baseline proximity
433 data, indicated that in both groups the observed modularity was very low (Group 1: 0.033;
434 Group 2: 0.186), possibly due to a lack of data. However, the observed sub-group structures
435 gave modularity scores that lay at the 100th and 99.98th percentile of the simulated
436 distribution, based on the baseline data, for group 1 and 2 respectively. Thus our assignment
437 of individuals to sub-groups gives a significantly higher modularity than expected by chance.

438 As the proximities of individuals outside of testing sessions corresponds to the sub-groupings
439 observed during task presentations, we may be reasonably confident in our assignment of
440 individuals to sub-groups.

441

442 [Figure 3 - sociograms]

443

444 **Standard Inferential Social Learning Statistics**

445

446 *Group Comparisons of Option Use*

447 The possible existence of traditions in each of the open diffusion groups was assessed by
448 comparing their relative frequencies of task option use and assessing the level of asocial bias
449 for one option over the other using the asocial learning control individuals. As can be seen in
450 table 2, the control individuals did not exhibit a strong bias for use of either flip or swivel in
451 their first successful manipulation. Task positioning negated the use of over the top flip (otf)
452 or up and under flip (uuf) as subjects could not approach the task from behind but only from
453 the front, resulting in forward flips (ff) only.

454

455 [Table 2 about here]

456

457 There was no significant difference between the two open diffusion groups in the percentage
458 of swivel manipulations ($[\text{number of swivels}/(\text{number of swivels} + \text{flips})] \times 100$) produced
459 (median: group 1 =10.2%, group 2=9.4%; two-tailed Mann-Whitney U test: $U=27$, $N_1=8$,
460 $N_2=7$, $p=0.9$) despite the fact that group 2 was seeded with swivel-trained demonstrators.
461 When the category 'flip' was broken down into over the top-flip (otf), up and under-flip
462 (uuf) and forward-flip (ff) (with swivel) a Kruskal Wallis analysis indicated a significant
463 difference between the groups in the use of the uu-flip option only ($\chi_1^2=5.65$, $p=0.017$) with
464 group 2 (median=0.42) producing more than group 1 (0) (see figure 4), however the result
465 should not be treated as valid as it treats multiple manipulations from the same individuals as
466 independent data points. As can be seen in figure 4, group 2 produce more ott-flips (median
467 =4.35%; 5/7 individuals exhibiting them) than group 1 (0.311%; 3/8 individuals). This is
468 despite the fact that, ecologically, otf manipulations are at least two times more likely in
469 group 1 than group 2 (there were 4 trees at which otf was possible for group 1 and only 1-2
470 trees for group 2). There was no significant difference between the two groups in option use
471 at the level of flip or swivel using left or right hand or nose.

472

473 [Figure 4 about here]

474

475 ***Influence of Observation Opportunities upon Behavior***

476 The proportion of each type of successful manipulation used was assessed as a function of the
477 proportion of the successful manipulation types observed. We also investigated, across
478 successful and unsuccessful manipulations, the number of different options used as a function
479 of the number of different options an individual had observed others to use. Full details may
480 be seen in the supplementary material, but in summary, there was no indication that
481 observation opportunities, either of actual manipulation type (eg. flip vs. swivel / ff vs. ottf
482 vs. uuf / flip vs. swivel by body part) or of manipulation variety (number of options), had any
483 influence on the type or variety of manipulations an individual produced.

484

485 If social learning reduced the time taken to learn the task ('learning time') we would expect a
486 negative relationship between learning time and the frequency of successful manipulations
487 observed (from a zone of within 3m around the task) prior to success. There was, however, a
488 significant *positive* effect of 'learning time' (latency between first contact and first success
489 accounting for time away from the task) as a function of the number of successful
490 manipulations observed prior to first successful manipulation (Linear mixed model (LMM),
491 with group as a random variable: $t_{1,12}=6.36, p<0.0001$). Thus, the more successful
492 manipulations individuals observed prior to success, the greater the total time at the task prior
493 to first success. Similarly, we found a significant positive correlation of absolute latency to
494 first success and the number of successful manipulations observed prior to this success
495 (Spearman's $\rho_{13}= 264.66, p=0.043$, data pooled across groups). It is possible that our
496 'learning time' measure was a poor indicator of learning. If it were representative of learning
497 we would expect a higher proportion of successful to unsuccessful task manipulations in
498 individuals that were at the task for only a short, rather than extended, period prior to their
499 first success. Across individuals there was, however, no relationship between the proportion
500 of successful manipulations produced (successful/ (successful+unsuccessful)) and the
501 learning time. These results may indicate that time at the task is more representative of task
502 monopolization than learning and those monopolizing the task, are tolerated in proximity to
503 conspecifics at the task and thus observe more task manipulations than less dominant
504 individuals.

505

506 ***Investigating the Role of Rank***

507 Linear mixed models, with group as a random variable, failed to find relationships fitting
508 success order to either rank or the total time at the task prior to success. When non-solvers are
509 included in the analysis by giving them a ceiling success order value, there is however, a
510 positive relationship between success order and rank (LMM with group as a random variable:
511 $t_{1,18} = 2.74$, $p = 0.01$) suggesting that subordinate individuals are prevented from solving the
512 task by dominant individuals (see figure 5). Of those individuals that did solve the task, there
513 was a significant negative effect of rank on the total time to solve the task (LMM: $t_{1,12} = -2.16$,
514 $p = 0.05$). In other words, subordinate individuals that gained sufficient access to solve the
515 task learned the solution more quickly than dominant individuals (see figure 5). There was,
516 however, no significant correlation between the proportion of successful manipulations
517 (successful / (successful+unsuccessful)) produced by individuals and their rank. There is
518 thus no hint that more dominant individuals have an extended trial and error period
519 (represented by a greater proportion of unsuccessful to successful manipulations) compared
520 to subordinate individuals, during their greater total time at the task prior to success. Total
521 time at the task prior to success, may thus have more to do with monopolization than
522 learning.

523

524 [figure 5 about here]

525

526 Due to the apparent role of rank in individuals' interactions with the task we conducted an
527 analysis of 'learning time' as a function of the opportunities to observe successful
528 manipulations prior to first success, including rank as an explanatory variable. As reported
529 above, there was a significant main effect of observation of successful manipulations (LMM
530 excluding non-solvers: $t_{1,10} = 4.3976$, $df = 10$, $p = 0.0013$), but no main effect of rank yet a
531 significant interaction of successful manipulations observed and rank ($t_{1,10} = -2.4612$, $df = 10$,
532 $p = 0.0336$). Thus, as can be seen in figure 6, more dominant individuals tend to observe
533 many successful manipulations and have a relatively long total latency to task solution, whilst
534 more subordinate individuals tend to observe little and have short latencies to task solution.
535 However, extreme caution is required in interpretation of all rank related results as it is only
536 in group 1 that the top ranking individuals feature in the data, as ranks 1,2 and 5 in group 2
537 were 'trained demonstrators' and thus excluded.

538

539 [figure 6 about here]

540

541 **Option Bias Analysis**

542 The option bias analysis was conducted at the level of flip vs. swivel and also, as flip could
543 be broken down into 3 options, at the level of over the top-flip (otff), vs. up under-flip (uuf)
544 vs. forward-flip (ff). Likewise, one can consider body part used for each manipulation,
545 giving 6 options (left or right hand or nose for flip or swivel). All details can be found in the
546 supplementary material, but in summary, the majority of option bias analyses (across the 2
547 groups or 4 sub-groups, for all manipulations or successful manipulations only) yielded non-
548 significant results, despite high power.

549

550 There was however, one significant option bias analysis when conducted on all manipulations
551 of ff vs. otff vs. uuf, across the 4 sub-groups (option bias: $\chi^2=591.278$, $p=0.0001$;
552 LLM=292.6169, $p=0.0001$; see figure 7a). The Type I error rates at $p=0.0001$, (where social
553 learning (s) is set to zero and the asocial learning rate (α) to 0.5) with an underlying bias of
554 94 (ff) to 4 (otff) to 1 (uuf), were <0.0001 for both methods. The family wise error rate does
555 not need to be taken into account here as the option-bias method itself is highly conservative
556 in this respect. In addition, the p value is so small that it would remain significant after a
557 reduction in α . We therefore have evidence consistent with social learning of different flip-
558 specific methods for extracting food from the tasks. As previously mentioned, such an
559 analysis as regards swivel was not conducted as the subjects appeared largely restricted to
560 approaching the task from the front when swivelling. As can be seen in figure 6b it is largely
561 the proportion of option use in sub-group 4 that results in the significant difference between
562 the observed and simulated null distribution, although sub-groups 1-3 also deviate from the
563 global proportions. As highlighted above, the bias for otff and uuf in sub-group 4 (of group 2)
564 cannot be accounted for by ecological differences as there were actually more tasks available
565 at which these options were possible for group 1 than group 2. It should also be noted that
566 sub-groups were not restricted to the use of particular tasks (of the 4-6 simultaneously
567 presented) and thus differing possibilities of flip options afforded by each tasks position
568 cannot account for the significant option-bias result.

569

570 [Figure 7 about here]

571

572 **Network Based Diffusion Analysis**

573 When conducting extended NBDA (or TADA as re-classified by Franz & Nunn, this issue)
574 analyses, using difference in rank between individuals as indicative of the social network,
575 there is no evidence for social learning. For both groups, regardless of whether social
576 network matrices allow similarity or dissimilarity in rank to indicate high connection
577 strengths between individuals, the purely asocial learning model is always better supported
578 than the model including both social and asocial learning (Akaike probabilities around
579 0.73%; see supplementary information). Thus, the difference in rank between individual A
580 and B does not give any indication as to the likelihood that B will produce a successful
581 manipulation given that A has already done so. When using inter-individual proximity levels
582 (outside of testing sessions) as an indicator of the social network, for both groups, neither the
583 social and asocial learning model nor the pure asocial learning model is favoured over the
584 other (see supplementary information).

585

586

587 **DISCUSSION**

588 We have applied the option-bias method and NBDA method to data from wild animals for
589 the first time, as well as compared their outcomes with those of standard inferential statistical
590 tests. To our knowledge, we present the first evidence consistent with social learning in
591 prosimian primates, in particular lemurs (*Lemur catta*).

592

593 ***Social Learning in Ring-Tailed Lemurs?***

594 We find a significant level of homogeneity of behavior, indicative of social learning, in the
595 option-bias analysis of sub-group's use of options within flip. We believe this finding to be
596 robust as it is supported by a particularly low Type I error rate of <0.0001. In addition, as
597 detailed below, there are many methodological and biological reasons as to why social
598 learning was not identified using the alternative methods applied to the data. Although this
599 finding contrasts with that of no predictive relationship between the number of ottf, uuf and ff
600 manipulations observed upon their subsequent use, the latter result is based on an analysis of
601 limited power, due to small sample size. In addition, task monopolization may obscure such
602 a relationship. In line with the theory of Coussi-Korbel and Fragaszy (1995) that tolerance of
603 proximity may be required for the transmission of social information, our only evidence for
604 social learning is within sub-groups, which are defined by time spent in proximity in general
605 and tolerance of each other at proximity to the task. In a result akin to that found in fish and
606 primates (Swaney, Kendal, Capon, Brown & Laland, 2001; Bonnie & de Waal 2006;

607 Nahallage & Huffman 2007 & this issue) we thus provide support for the prediction that
608 directed social learning, “can support within group differentiations of behavior” mediated by
609 the learning opportunities afforded by “spatial and temporal behavioral coordination,”
610 (Coussi-Korbel & Fragasz, 1995, pp 1444) or tolerance of proximity within sub-groups,
611 whether mediated by age, sex, relatedness or familiarity. In addition, this finding indicates
612 that the social learning process(es) involved in acquiring these three specific methods of
613 using the task flap may require close observation. Such close observation was reported in the
614 ‘drinking from tails’ documented in captive *Lemur catta* although the authors were able only
615 to suggest that the behavior pattern may have spread through social learning (Hosey et al.,
616 1997). We are unable to do more than speculate about the likely social learning processes
617 involved. However, as there were three flip actions all directed at the flap of the task we may
618 rule out local or stimulus enhancement effects (*sensu* Hoppitt & Laland 2008) alone and
619 suggest response facilitation (Byrne 1994)

620

621 In contrast, according to the option-bias analysis, we may be confident that homogeneity in
622 use of either the flip or swivel option, in all manipulations or for successful manipulations
623 only, in each group, or sub-group, was not due to social learning. Although, visually, it
624 appears that there was homogeneity of option use, towards flip versus swivel, in both groups
625 (see figure 2) the option-bias analysis indicates that this apparent bias may be accounted for
626 by chance and/or asocial learning alone. The fact that the three asocial learning controls and
627 innovator in the unseeded open diffusion (OD) group, all solved it several times within the
628 first 10 minutes of exposure (exhibiting only 3, 10, 0 and 1 (OD) unsuccessful manipulations
629 prior to first success, which occurred at an average of 71 seconds), implies that the task was
630 quite easy and may not, according to the ‘costly information hypothesis’ (Boyd & Richerson,
631 1985), have necessitated the use of social learning for many of the individuals in the open
632 diffusion groups. Caution is, however, required as all controls were captive, rather than wild,
633 adult males and the OD innovator a sub-adult female. Wherever possible it is advisable to
634 acquire asocial learning controls from within the test population. The hypothesis that social
635 learning was not required in the use of flip versus swivel is however, supported when
636 considering the performance of callitrichids exposed to tasks of varying difficulty, where
637 asocial learning was deemed sufficient for the ‘easy’ task and social learning for the more
638 ‘difficult’ tasks using option-bias analysis (Kendal et al., 2009). Similarly, the finding of no
639 evidence for social learning, at the level of two options, according to option bias analysis
640 mirrors that of Dean, Kendal, Hoppitt and Laland (in prep.) with the presentation of three,

641 two-option, extractive foraging tasks to groups of captive ruffed lemurs (*Varecia variegata*
642 *ssp.*).

643

644 In support of the above argument, that social learning was not required for learning of flip or
645 swivel, the lack of a predictive relationship between what was observed prior to first success
646 and what manipulations were produced is indicative of a lack of role for social learning.

647 Likewise the positive relationship between the ‘learning time’ (and the absolute latency until
648 first success), and the number of successful manipulations observed prior to first success is
649 contrary to evidence for social learning. This is because a negative correlation would be
650 expected under social learning as the more successful manipulations one observes the less
651 time one should need to be present at the task (allowing for trial and error/asocial learning) to
652 solve it. There was also a lack of relationship between the total time at the task prior to
653 success and the proportion of successful manipulations produced. Were the time at the task to
654 be used for trial and error learning one would expect those with a low proportion of successes
655 to have had a long total time at the task prior to success. Thus, the total time at the task prior
656 to success does not appear to be a reliable proxy measure of ‘learning time’ in this case.

657

658 The hierarchical nature of the lemur groups would appear to be responsible for the pattern of
659 time at the task being unrelated to the time taken to learn the task. Within *Lemur catta* “high-
660 ranking individuals frequently and aggressively reassert their domination over the
661 subordinate cohort” even in the absence of an overt challenge (Sapolsky, 2005 p. 648).

662 During data collection it was apparent that the alpha females would readily interrupt their
663 own foraging with task A in order to displace others from tasks B or C, before resuming
664 foraging at task A. This observation is reflected in the role of rank, females above males, on
665 success order. Although all of the rank related results are interpreted with caution,
666 subordinate individuals, relative to dominants, tended to solve the task later in the diffusion.

667 This corresponds to reports, of female feeding priority in lemurs, achieved by both female
668 aggression towards males, and male deference to females (Overdorff, Erhart, & Mutschler,
669 2005; White et al., 2007). In our study, of the 6 individuals (3 per group) that did not interact
670 with the task, all but one (an adult female) were low ranking adult, often peripheral, males.

671 This corresponds to the report of Kappeler (1987), in an early open diffusion study with
672 *Lemur catta*, that the lowest ranking individuals (peripheral males) did not acquire the novel
673 foraging trait. Despite their later position in the diffusion subordinates exhibit significantly
674 less observation of the prior successes of others (likely out of a lack of opportunity to remain

675 within 3m of the task when a conspecific was manipulating it: Anderson et al., 1992)
676 compared to dominants. This does not however impede their success with the task as they
677 exhibit a significantly reduced total time at the task prior to first success than dominants.
678 This tentative finding cannot, however, be taken as conflicting with the hypothesis that
679 cognitive ability (here ‘learning time’) is positively correlated with social dominance (see
680 Boogert, Reader, & Laland, 2006) because (i) the total time to success, as discussed above,
681 may not be indicative of learning time but rather of resource monopolization by dominants,
682 and (ii) learning time was not tested in individuals removed from social constraints.

683

684 The lack of evidence for social learning according to the NBDA/TADA analysis is
685 unsurprising, despite the apparent influential role of rank and sub-groups in the lemur groups’
686 response to the extractive foraging task. Although the option-bias analysis found evidence for
687 social learning, this was at the sub-group level and for option use, whereas the NBDA
688 analysis uses as inputs learning of the task in general at the group level. Thus the
689 transmission of information along social network pathways specified by rank or proximity is
690 unlikely to be picked up by the NBDA analysis in this case. In accordance with the finding
691 regarding rank, Kappeler (1987) in his open diffusion study with *Lemur catta*, reported that a
692 direction of information propagation with respect to rank was not discernible. However, with
693 the proximity matrix analyses, neither the asocial- nor social and asocial- learning model was
694 favoured over the other. Thus, it remains possible that there is an effect of directed social
695 learning, along pathways specified by proximity, within these lemur groups which the NBDA
696 method has not detected due to the low power caused by small group sizes (Franz & Nunn,
697 this issue; Hoppitt et al. 2010).

698

699 ***Methodological Considerations***

700 Our analyses have highlighted several methodological considerations for the use of
701 inferential statistical methods, option-bias analysis and network based diffusion analysis, in
702 capturing social learning in natural contexts.

703

704 Primarily, the study has indicated the importance of taking the social system of the species in
705 question into account when applying methods for the analysis of social learning. As
706 highlighted by Kendal et al. (2009a), the researcher, using option-bias analysis must
707 independently identify the populations for which homogeneity of behavior is expected. In this
708 study it is apparent that the choice of an appropriate level of population analysis (here group

709 or sub-group) is key. Similarly, a new method (Matthews, 2008) developed for the study of
710 social transmission in intermediately despotic wild capuchins, uses a randomization method
711 to indicate that ‘cliques’ within groups showed more evidence of social learning than groups
712 as a whole. Likewise, with network based diffusion analysis (NBDA) the researcher should
713 use a social network of relevance to the transmission of social information. Possibly of
714 utmost relevance to this study, involving transmission of information regarding a novel
715 foraging device, would have been a matrix that was indicative of tolerance of proximity
716 between individuals during routine foraging (co-feeding network: Franz & Nunn, this issue).
717 Unfortunately, however, these data were unavailable. Finally, although theoretically the
718 method has utility with species that do not exhibit strong social hierarchies or variation within
719 the social network (Franz & Nunn, this issue) this remains to be explored using real data.

720

721 We had originally planned to apply the Kendal, Kendal & Laland (2007) method of modeling
722 social learning processes to the lemur data. However, this method was developed for use
723 with the more egalitarian callitrichid monkeys and it was apparent that the movement and
724 observation parameters, as developed, would be unduly affected by the social hierarchy of the
725 lemur subjects, negating any meaningful ability to detect social learning. Similarly, as
726 emphasized by Hoppitt et al. (this issue), the displacement of individuals from tasks by
727 conspecifics has implications for the interpretation of network based diffusion analysis as
728 well as diffusion curve analysis. Also, as detailed in the methods section, we a priori adapted
729 the use of a negative correlation between contact latency and ‘learning time’ (success
730 latency-contact latency) as an indicator of social learning (Day, 2003, developed for
731 callitrichids). The measure of ‘learning time’ (total time at the task prior to first success) was
732 adapted to take account of inhibited access to the task in subordinates. Also, the despotic
733 nature of the lemur groups called for a more direct measure of observation opportunities (than
734 latency to contact the task), such as number of task manipulations observed. However, in
735 analyzing the results it became apparent that even using total time at the task prior to first
736 success as an indicator of cognitive ‘learning time’ was flawed as the time at the task in
737 dominant individuals may have nothing to do with learning but more to do with resource
738 monopolization (White et al., 2007). This is not to say, however, that such methods cannot
739 be used at all with more despotic species. Boogert et al. (2008), for example, did find a
740 significant negative correlation between contact latency and ‘learning time’ in social contexts
741 (and not individual learning contexts), in a gregarious bird with pronounced dominance
742 hierarchies.

743 In addition to being the first application of the option-bias method to data from the wild, this
744 study has also extended its use to cases where there are more than two behavioral variants for
745 a task's solution and underlying biases in the use of each. The finding of social learning in
746 sub-group biases for options used within flip, but not for flip versus swivel, highlights that a
747 researcher must, to some extent, allow the study subjects to identify or define the options
748 available to them. Our task was designed to have two options (flip versus swivel) but the
749 lemurs themselves invented three different ways of flipping necessitating analysis at this level
750 also. The finding also reminds us that social learning involves asocial components and social
751 and asocial learning may variously predominate in the acquisition of different aspects of a
752 behavior pattern (as also suggested for New Caledonian Crows', manufacture of 'wide'
753 *Pandanus* leaf tools: Holzhaider et al., this issue) and that the approach should be suitable
754 where there is only one action (or motor pattern) required to solve the task but variation in the
755 'option' choice within it (Horner & Whiten, 2005).

756

757 When considering application of the method to data in which there is an underlying bias for
758 option use, we have used a slightly different code for the chi-square randomization method to
759 that used previously (Kendal, et al., 2009a). Here, the chi-square method uses expected
760 values calculated from the contingency table, rather than assuming an equal distribution of
761 option use. This aids considerably in the interpretation of a significant option-bias result. In
762 the analysis of options used within flip, there was a considerable bias for one option over the
763 others, yet as the method incorporates bias, we may still be confident in evidence for social
764 learning. Thus the method may be used to overcome the issue faced by many studies where
765 groups are seeded with differing techniques for task solution, one of which is considered
766 more salient or easy than the other (see Flynn & Whiten this issue; Hopper et al., 2007 and
767 references therein). For example, Hopper et al. were forced to be cautious in their
768 interpretation of social learning being responsible for the clear divergence in option use
769 (lift/poke) in two demonstrator-seeded chimpanzee groups. This was because 'poke' was
770 considered more likely than 'lift' and the possibility that the bias for poke in the poke-seeded
771 group was asocially learnt could not be ruled out.

772

773 **CONCLUSION**

774 Contrary to common thought that lemurs are cognitively lacking compared to haplorhine
775 primates (e.g. Jolly, 1966), we find evidence consistent with social learning in the despotic
776 *Lemur catta* which supports the theory of directed social learning (Coussi-Korbel &

777 Fragaszy, 1995). To validate this finding we would look to directly examine social learning
778 processes as regards this task in captive *Lemur catta*. In addition, to further substantiate the
779 evidence for directed social learning, it would be fruitful, to investigate social learning, in an
780 open diffusion scenario, with a more egalitarian lemur species such as the Red-Fronted
781 Brown Lemur, (*Eulemur rufifrons*). We may predict that we will find greater evidence for
782 socially learnt traditions in more egalitarian than despotic species which, in turn, has
783 implications for the evolution of our own unique cultural capacities. Also, to tease apart the
784 role of rank on learning, future studies could simultaneously conduct open diffusion studies
785 and individual learning tests with the same subjects (eg. Boogert et al., 2006, 2008; Hoppitt et
786 al. 2010). Finally, as the tool-box of statistical techniques for capturing social learning in
787 natural contexts grows, care is required in ensuring that the methods employed are
788 appropriate for the study in question, in particular the social dynamics of the subjects. The
789 onus is thus on the creators of methods to clearly state their assumptions and constraints
790 whilst the researcher is responsible for ensuring deployment of the appropriate method to
791 examine putative cases of social learning.

792

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803

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1012 **FIGURE LEGENDS, TABLES & FIGURES**

1013

1014 **Figure 1**

1015 Kin relations and dominance ranks of (a) Group 1 and (b) Group 2. Females are indicated by
1016 circles, males by rectangles and unweaned infants by triangles. Dominance ranks indicated by
1017 numbers preceded by #. Juveniles (1-2 years of age) are represented with lower case lettering.

1018

1019 **Figure 2**

1020 A lemur (a) *flipping* the flap and holding it open with the top of her head and (b) *swivelling*
1021 the disc to the left using her nose; and (c) the layout of the testing sites (as used with each
1022 group) with the positions of the tubes and cameras indicated.

1023

1024 **Figure 3**

1025 In the above socigrams, the frequency data from focal samples were converted to percentages
1026 of total proximity across (a) group 1 and (b) group 2. For example, in group 1 AL and TA
1027 were within one metre of each other for 8.97% of the total number of proximity counts for the
1028 whole group. (no line 0-3%; dashed line >3-6%; bold line >6-9%; thick line >9%).

1029

1030 **Figure 4**

1031 The proportion of all task manipulations (unsuccessful & successful), per individual
1032 represented in order of first successful manipulation, that involved each option of swivel,
1033 forward-flip, over the top-flip and up and under-flip for (A) group 1, and (B) group 2. Values
1034 at the top of the bars give the total number of manipulations produced by individuals who are
1035 represented on the x axis by their initials with parentheses indicating the sex (male/female)
1036 and age category (adult, sub-adult or juvenile). The values, 1-4, beneath individuals indicate
1037 sub-group membership.

1038

1039 **Figure 5**

1040 Significant relationships of (A) success order (with ceiling values of non-solvers set at group
1041 size of 11 and 13, for group 1 and 2 respectively) and (B) total time at the task prior to first
1042 successful manipulation, as a function of rank order.

1043

1044 **Figure 6**

1045 The significant predictive relationship of the number of successful manipulations observed
1046 prior to first success and the total time at the task prior to first success. Values next to data
1047 points (to the left for group 2 and right for group 1) indicate the rank of the individual, in
1048 order to highlight the significant interaction effect of successful manipulations observed and
1049 rank upon the cumulative time to solve the task. The relationship is, interpreted with caution
1050 as it is only in group 1 that the top ranking individuals feature in the data, the three top
1051 rankers in group 2 being trained demonstrators.

1052

1053 **Figure 7**

1054 Results of the significant option bias analysis (chi-square method only) of flip manipulations
1055 broken down into their component options, across the four sub-groups. Part (A) shows that
1056 the observed chi-square metric value (bold vertical line) falls in the upper tail of the null
1057 distribution of chi-square values created by the randomized simulation. Part (B) depicts the
1058 observed proportion of flip options used for sub-groups 1 to 4 and the global mean proportion
1059 of options used (which includes both task constraint and social learning biases on the options
1060 used). This indicates that for the observed data, there is a significant interaction between
1061 group and option bias that is not reflected in the global option proportions from which the
1062 simulated (randomized) data are sampled.

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Table 1

Task Actions	Definition
Flip (F)	Flap lifted sufficiently to allow feeding
Partial flip (PF)	Flap lifted but not sufficiently to allow feeding
Swivel (S)	Disc swivelled sufficiently to allow feeding
Partial swivel (PS)	Disc swivelled but not sufficiently to allow feeding
Forward (F)	Lemur approaches the tube from the front and manipulates the flap or disc (e.g. FF = forward flip)
Over the top (OTT)	Lemur climbs up behind the tube and leans over the top of it to manipulate the disc or flap (e.g. OTTPF = over the top partial flip)
Up and under (UU)	Lemur approaches from behind the tube, lies on the ground and reaches up to manipulate the task (e.g. UUF = up and under flip)

1067
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Definitions of actions performed upon the extractive foraging apparatus.

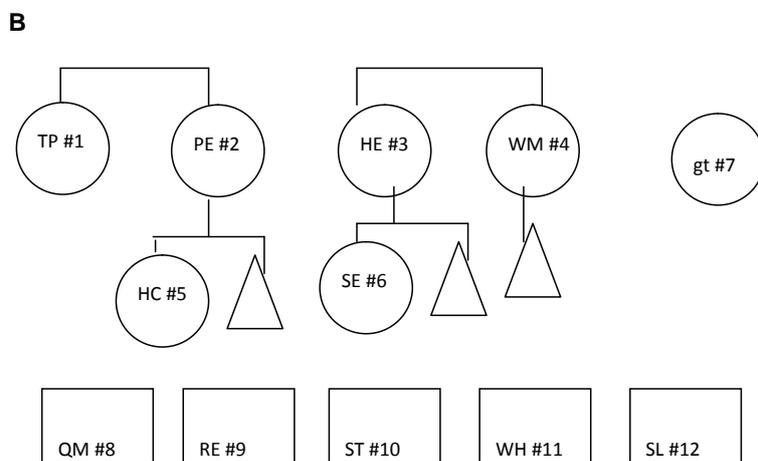
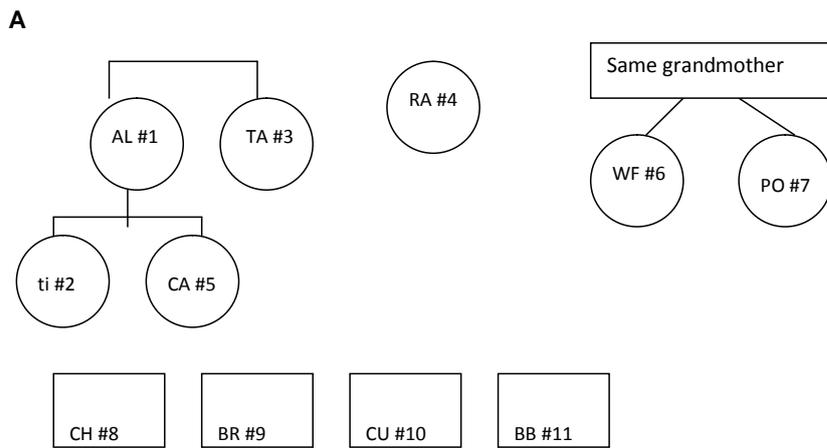
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Table 2

Subject	Contact		Unsuccessful Manipulation		Successful Manipulation	
	Latency	Action	Latency	Action	Latency	
1	22	Flip (nose)	31	Flip (nose)	110	
2	20	Flip (nose)	148	Swivel (nose)	171	
3	15	Flip (hand)	149	Swivel (nose)	22*	
4 (OD)	41	Flip (hand)	63	Flip (nose)	81	

1072 The actions (including body part used) and latency (in seconds) of the *first* contact, unsuccessful and successful
1073 task manipulation by each of the four control individuals, including the innovator in the unseeded open diffusion
1074 (OD) group. *this individual produced a successful manipulation prior to the first unsuccessful one.
1075
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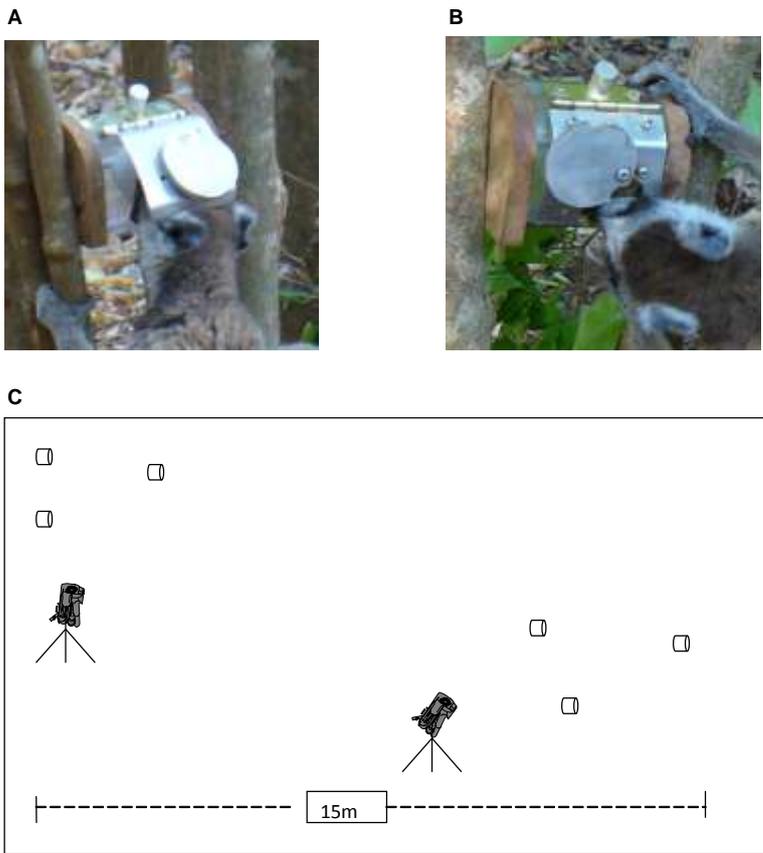
1077 **Figure 1**



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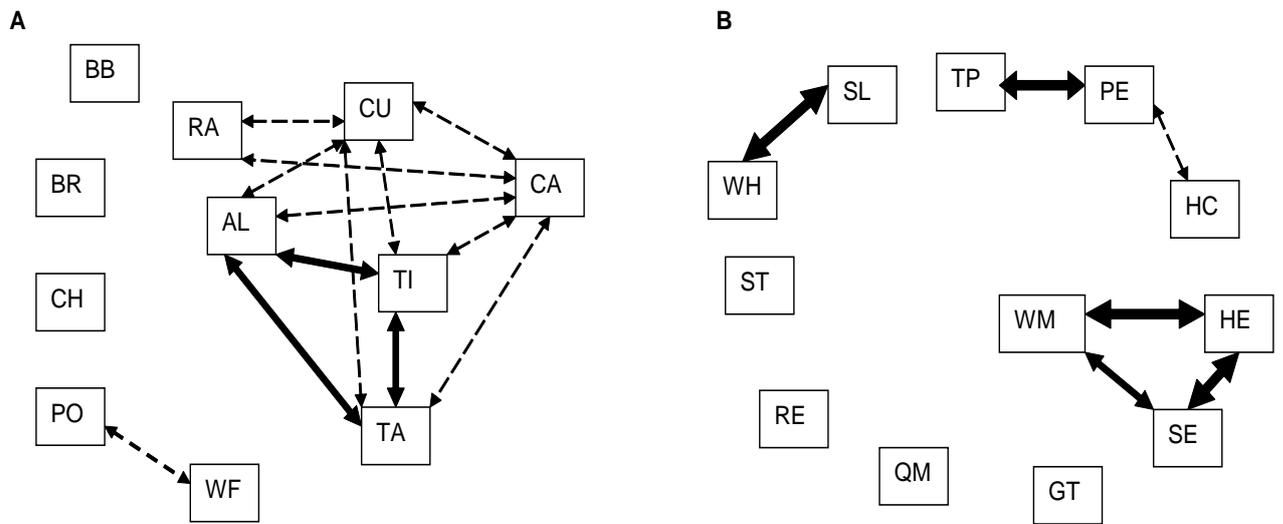
1080 **Figure 2**



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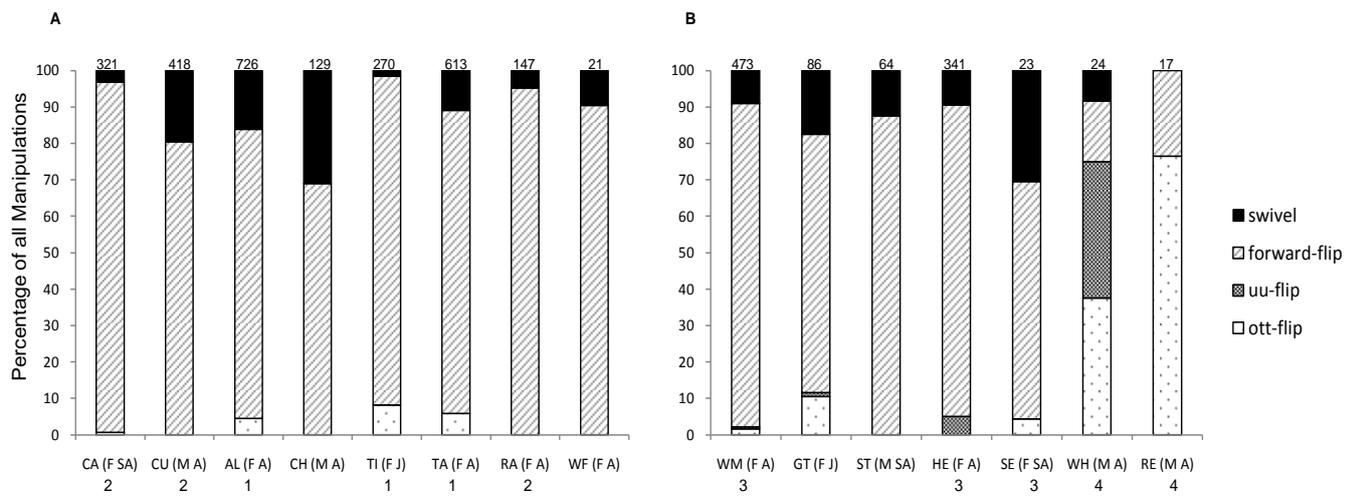
1083 **Figure 3**



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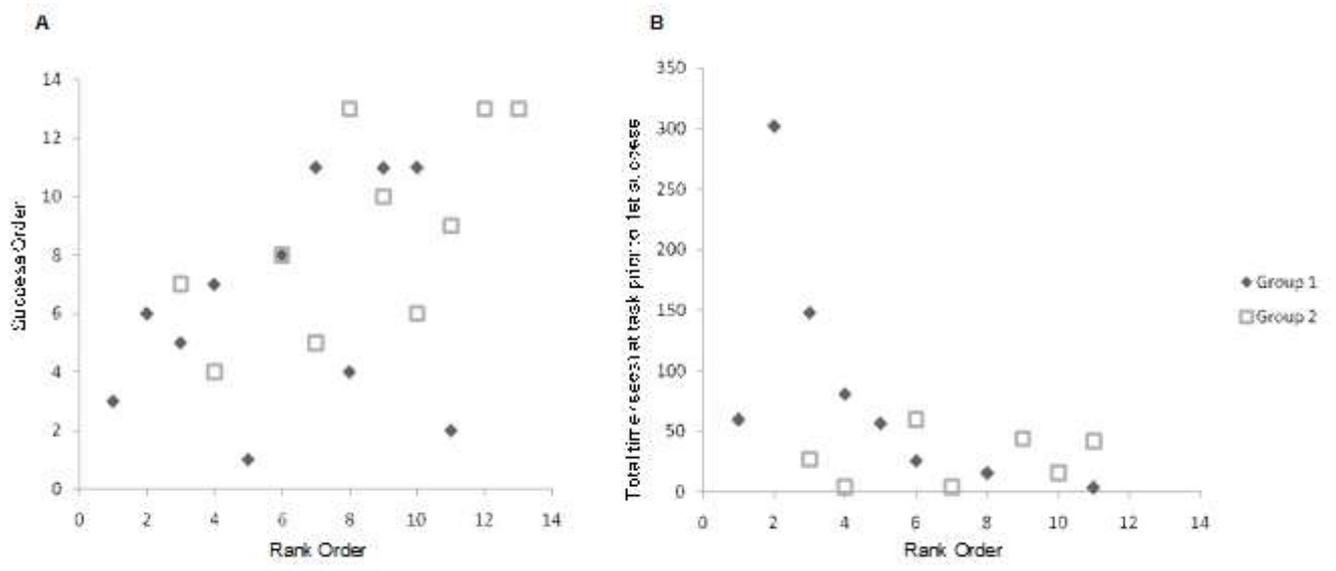
1086 **Figure 4**



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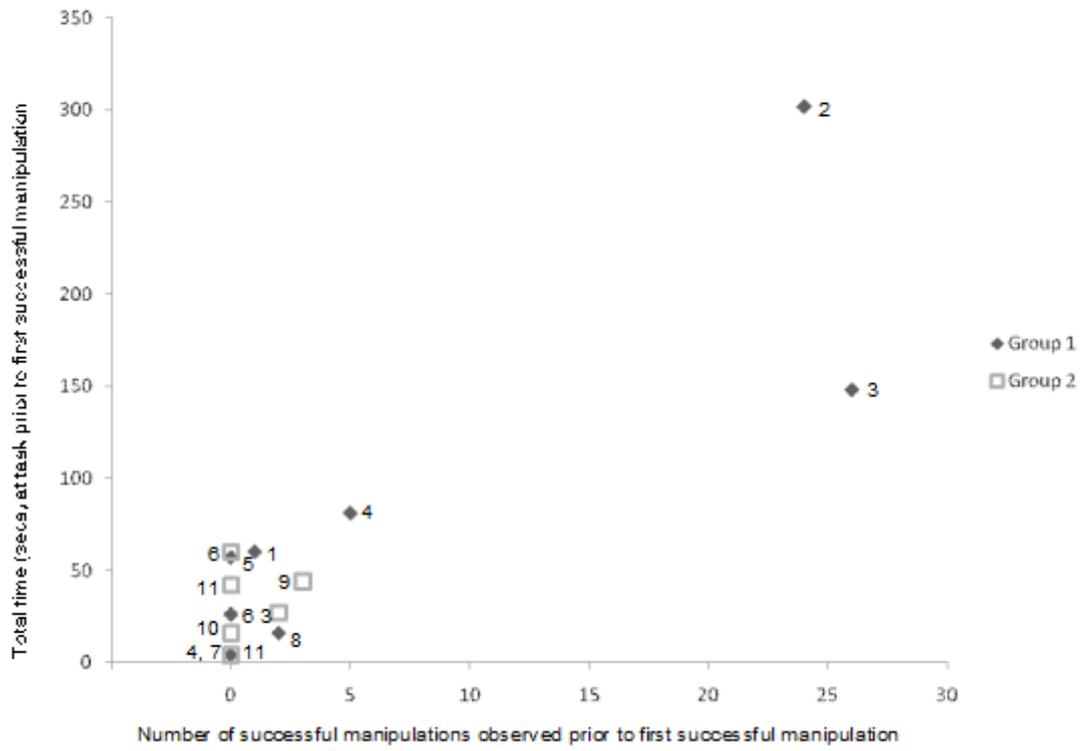
1088

1089 **Figure 5**



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