Modelling reconciliation in the Japanese macaque

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Various factors may affect the occurrence of reconciliation, including the type of relationships that former opponents share, the context of the conflict, and the sex of the opponents. Here I will attempt to disentangle the relative importance of a series of variables that may potentially affect conflict resolution, using a modelling approach. Data were collected on two wild troops of Japanese macaques (*Macaca fuscata yakui*) living on Yakushima Island, South Japan. Variables included in the best model were the percentage of baseline grooming exchanged between opponents, the distance between opponents at the end of the conflict, kinship, sex of the opponents, and context of the conflict (i.e. during feeding or social time). In particular, grooming had a positive effect on conflict resolution, being the best predictor of both the occurrence and timing of reconciliation. These findings support the valuable relationship hypothesis as they evidence the pivotal role that friendly relationships (measured in terms of grooming exchanged) have on conflict resolution.