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Facing captivity: Capuchin monkeys and their coping strategies

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When facing stressful situations animals, within the same population, differ in how they handle it using different coping strategies. The continuum Proactive / Reactive styles of stress coping strategy are described for many taxons (rodents, birds, fishes, and mammals, for example). Capuchin monkeys (*Sapajus spp*) have high complexity at behavioral and cognitive levels, reflections of its high encephalization and complex social life. These animals are found in large numbers in zoos, research and wildlife rescue centers. Based on a sample of 31 captive brown capuchin monkeys housed at Cabedelo rescue center, João Pessoa zoo and Salvador zoo and over 170 hours of instantaneous behavioral records, we employed a PCA (Principal Component Analysis) to test the hypothesis that animals differ in their reactivity to the stressful condition of captivity. Data reduction analyses using direct oblimin yielded four factors (KMO =0.511; Bartlett's test of sphericity $X^2 = 113.766$, $p < 0.001$) labelled as: Self-directed (variance explained 29%); Restless (17%); Stereotyped (12%); Ingestive (11%). Nonparametric analyses indicated sex differences in the Self-directed factor, with males more prone to exhibit the stereotypies of this factor. Our results are similar to those already published in the literature showing animals differ in reaction to stress, with some animal exhibiting a more proactive strategy (here labeled as restless), and others more reactive strategy (self-directed). Despite other stress coping strategies have been detected more study has to be done to understand the physiology underlying these behavioral responses and their impact on animal welfare. Financial Support: CNPq.

Key words: coping strategies, individual differences, stereotypies