Use of immature fruits of Acrocomia (Arecaceae) palms for hydration by Red-and-green Macaw Ara chloroptera (Aves: Psittacidae) and Hooded Capuchin Sapajus cay (Mammalia: Primates: Cebidae)

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Abstract

Feeding behaviour of animals is commonly studied, but little attention is given by researchers to drinking behaviour. We present the first documentation of predation of immature Acrocomia totai fruits by Red-and-green Macaw Ara chloropterus for purposes of hydration in the Paraguayan Pantanal. The Hooded Capuchin Sapajus cay was also observed to drink liquid endosperm from the related Acrocomia aculeata in the Paraguayan Atlantic Forest. Such behaviour may be accessible only for adult and subadult monkeys, as the hard fruits require sharp canines for perforation. The behaviour may be seen only when more accessible water sources are scarce.