



Predation by Female Chimpanzees: Toward an Understanding of Sex Differences in Meat Acquisition in the Last Common Ancestor of Pan and Homo

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1 **Title**

2 Predation by female chimpanzees: toward an understanding of sex differences in meat acquisition
3 among early hominins

4

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30

31 **Abstract**

32 Among modern foraging societies, men hunt more than women, who mostly target low-quality, yet
33 reliable resources (i.e. plants). This sex difference has long been assumed to reflect female reproductive
34 constraints, particularly caring for, and provisioning offspring. Chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) enable
35 tests of hypotheses about the origins of human sex differences in predation, prior to the appearance of
36 pair-bonding and regular provisioning. We studied two chimpanzee communities (Kasekela, Mitumba) in
37 Gombe, Tanzania and one (Kanyawara) in Kibale, Uganda. Female chimpanzees consistently hunted less
38 often than males did. In Kasekela and Kanyawara, this was partly because females encountered red
39 colobus monkeys (chimpanzees' primary prey) less often than males did. However, when present at a
40 red colobus hunt attempt, females in all three communities were less likely than males to participate,
41 indicating additional constraints. Consistent with the hypothesis that females should be more risk-
42 averse than males, Gombe females specialized in terrestrial/sedentary prey (e.g. young ungulates,
43 fledglings) which seem less risky or costly to acquire than red colobus. Kanyawara chimpanzees (both
44 sexes) preyed almost exclusively on arboreal monkeys. Female dominance rank was positively
45 correlated with red colobus hunting probability at Kasekela, suggesting that those in good physical
46 condition are less sensitive to the potential costs of a failed hunt attempt. There was no evidence that
47 clinging offspring hampered female hunting of red colobus. Finally, the potential for carcass
48 appropriation deterred Kasekela females from hunting in parties containing many adult males. Together,
49 these results enable us to make inferences about the biological bases of sex differences in predation
50 among early hominins. We suggest that before the advent of social obligations regarding sharing and
51 provisioning, hominin females faced similar constraints as chimpanzees. An inherent sex difference in
52 hunting behavior would have provided the basis for the evolution of the sexual division of labor among
53 modern humans.

54 **Key words**

55 Pan troglodytes; Hunting; Meat eating; Diet; Foraging

56

57 **Introduction**

58 Across modern foraging societies, men consistently hunt more often and contribute more meat to their
59 group's diet than women do (Marlowe, 2007). For example, Hadza women acquired only 3.2% (by mass)
60 of the prey brought back to camp (Wood and Marlowe, 2013). On average, Aché men spent 110 minutes
61 per day in active pursuit of game, not including search time (Hill et al., 1985), in contrast with women's 3
62 minutes (Hurtado et al., 1985). Even in societies such as the Aka, in which women frequently participate
63 in cooperative net hunts of small ungulates (Noss and Hewlett, 2001), they did so on only 20% of
64 observation days, compared to 65% for men (Kitanishi, 1995). Also, unlike men, women rarely hunt
65 alone or with projectiles, nor do they target large game (reviewed in Wood and Gilby, in revision). For
66 example, Hadza, /Gui and //Gana women typically target small, relatively immobile prey such as
67 tortoises, young ungulates, hyrax, and nesting birds (Tanaka, 1980; Wood and Marlowe, 2013). Aché
68 women often capture burrowing animals, but tend to call men when they locate more mobile
69 vertebrate game (Gurven and Hill, 2009).

70 This ubiquitous sex difference in rates of meat acquisition among modern human foraging
71 societies has long been assumed to be a result of the constraints that women face in carrying, caring for,
72 and provisioning offspring (reviewed in Bliege Bird and Codding, 2015). Women focus on reliable, yet
73 relatively low-quality, resources (i.e. plants) that ensure a regular supply of food for their children
74 (Marlowe, 2007; Bliege Bird and Codding, 2015). Free from these constraints, males pursue higher-
75 quality but less reliable resources (i.e. meat), either to complement women's contributions to the

76 family's diet (the 'economy of scale' model, reviewed in Bliege Bird and Bird, 2008) or to elevate their
77 status by sharing widely with the larger social group (the 'show off' hypothesis, Hawkes, 1991).
78 Women's foraging efforts ensure that families will not go hungry when males fail to obtain meat. This
79 scenario relies upon regular offspring provisioning, and in the case of the economy of scale model, food
80 exchange within the pair bond. Among the great apes, these behaviors are unique to humans. Although
81 4-8 million years of evolution separate modern humans from their last common ancestor with
82 chimpanzees (*Pan troglodytes*) and bonobos (*Pan paniscus*) (Patterson et al., 2006; Langergraber et al.,
83 2012), morphological and behavioral data indicate that the chimpanzee is a valuable point of
84 comparison for identifying the possible range of behavior exhibited by early hominins (Muller et al., in
85 revision; Wrangham and Pilbeam, 2001; Stanford, 2012). As such, chimpanzees allow for tests
86 of hypotheses about the biological origins of sex differences in meat acquisition prior to the appearance
87 of pair bonds and the sexual division of labor. Some documented sex differences in the foraging and
88 feeding patterns of wild chimpanzees include the frequency and duration of tool-assisted insectivory
89 (multiple sites, female biased; McGrew, 1979, 1992; Nishida and Hiraiwa, 1982), the frequency and
90 efficiency of nut-cracking behavior with stones (one site, female biased; Boesch and Boesch, 1981,
91 1984), the use of sticks to acquire bushbabies (one site, female biased; Pruetz and Bertolani, 2007;
92 Pruetz et al., 2015), and the frequency and duration of meat consumption (multiple sites, male biased;
93 Stanford et al., 1994a; Uehara, 1997; Mitani and Watts, 2001).

94 The hunting behavior of chimpanzees has been studied extensively, but the vast majority of this
95 work is devoted to male predation upon red colobus monkeys (*Procolobus spp*) (Taï National Forest,
96 Côte d'Ivoire: Boesch, 1994; Gombe National Park, Tanzania: Stanford et al., 1994b, Gilby et al. 2006,
97 2015; Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania: Uehara, 1997, Ngogo, Kibale National Park, Uganda:
98 Mitani and Watts, 2001; Kanyawara, Kibale: Gilby et al., 2008). Relatively little attention has been given
99 to predation on these or other vertebrates by female chimpanzees (but see Pruetz et al., 2015). Some of

100 this bias is likely due to the fact that hunts of red colobus monkeys ('red colobus' hereafter), which are
101 chimpanzees' most frequent prey (Uehara, 1997; Newton-Fisher, 2014), are most likely to occur in
102 parties containing many male chimpanzees (Stanford et al., 1994b; Mitani and Watts, 2001; Gilby et al.,
103 2006), which non-estrous females tend to avoid (Wrangham, 2000). Since large parties are easier to find
104 and follow, female predation rates may be underestimated if they hunt alone and/or specialize in cryptic
105 prey that require stealth or an element of surprise to capture. In the few studies that report kills of all
106 mammalian prey species by hunter age/sex class, female representation varies considerably across sites.
107 Nearly 1/3 of all predation events at Fongoli, Senegal (30% of 99 captures or possessions; Pruett et al.,
108 2015) and Mahale (31% of 54 hunts or first observed possessions; Takahata et al., 1984) were made by
109 females, compared to only 3% of 128 kills at Ngogo (Mitani and Watts, 1999). Females contributed 18%
110 of kills at Tai (Boesch and Boesch, 1989) and 23% at Gombe (Goodall, 1986). At Gombe, males killed 26
111 animals during 7,098 hours of observation, while one female participated (jointly with a male) in a single
112 kill in 7,485 hours (Wrangham and Bergmann-Riss, 1990). The variation among study sites is noteworthy,
113 and is likely due to a combination of social and ecological factors, as well as research focus and effort.

114 Here we use long-term data from three communities of eastern chimpanzees
115 (*P.t.schweinfurthii*) to test three hypotheses explaining differences in vertebrate hunting frequency.
116 While hunting and foraging for invertebrates occurs in many primates, chimpanzees are one of the only
117 species, other than humans, white-faced capuchins (Rose et al., 2003; Perry and Ordoñez Jiménez, 2006)
118 and baboons (Butynski, 1982), to consume a significant amount of vertebrate prey, suggesting that a
119 specific focus on hunting of vertebrates is warranted. We do not address cannibalism, which is
120 complicated by selection pressure favoring infanticide in the context of intrasexual competition (Pusey
121 and Schroepfer-Walker, 2013). While bonobos also hunt vertebrates, including arboreal monkeys (e.g.
122 Hohmann and Fruth, 2007; Surbeck and Hohmann, 2008; Surbeck et al., 2009), they do so very rarely,
123 prohibiting hypothesis-driven analyses.

124

125 *Hypotheses*

126 Opportunity hypothesis

127 Due to the costs of feeding competition, non-sexually receptive adult female chimpanzees at some sites
128 (e.g. Kanyawara (Wrangham et al., 1992) and Gombe (Wrangham and Smuts, 1980; Murray et al.,
129 2007)), spend more time alone compared to adult males. Because the probability of hunting (and
130 capturing) red colobus is strongly positively correlated with male chimpanzee party size (Mitani and
131 Watts, 2001; Gilby et al., 2006, 2008), females in these communities may simply have fewer
132 opportunities to hunt red colobus because they travel in large parties less frequently than males do.
133 Large parties also travel greater distances relative to small parties, increasing the probability of
134 encountering red colobus (Gilby et al., 2013). Since red colobus make up a high percentage of the prey
135 at most long-term chimpanzee research sites (53% - 92% (Newton-Fisher, 2014)), the relatively low
136 gregariousness of females compared to males is a simple explanation for lower female predation rates.
137 However, females may have more opportunities than males to hunt prey types that require some
138 element of stealth or surprise to capture (e.g., bushbuck fawns; *Tragelaphus scriptus*).

139 The opportunity hypothesis predicts (Table 1) that 1) chimpanzee parties will be smaller at kills
140 of terrestrial and/or sedentary prey species (that require surprise or stealth to capture) compared to
141 kills of arboreal monkeys; 2) females will encounter red colobus less often than males will; 3) female
142 hunting rates of red colobus will be positively correlated with overall gregariousness; and 4) when
143 present at a hunt attempt of red colobus, male and female chimpanzees will be equally likely to hunt.

144

145 Risk-sensitivity hypothesis

146 Female chimpanzees are expected to be less risk-prone than males. First, variation in female
147 reproductive success is determined more by calorie intake than by access to mates (Trivers, 1972).

148 Therefore, females should be more sensitive than males to the costs and benefits associated with
149 hunting, including energy expenditure, individual condition, and the net energetic and nutritional value
150 of the prey. Second, females are often carrying young offspring that could be injured during a hunt.
151 Predation upon red colobus appears risky (in terms of energy and injury) relative to other forms of
152 predation (e.g. snatching an infant bushbuck or duiker). It can be time consuming - the average red
153 colobus hunt at Gombe lasts 28 minutes (Stanford, 1998), although there is considerable variation
154 (Gilby, personal observation). Also, climbing through the canopy in pursuit of monkeys is likely to be
155 energetically expensive (Gilby and Wrangham, 2007), and hunters may be mobbed and bitten, or fall
156 from considerable heights (Goodall, 1986; Stanford, 1998). Together, these observations suggest that
157 risk-averse individuals should avoid hunting red colobus. Prior studies suggest that terrestrial or
158 sedentary animals make up a substantial fraction of the prey captured by female chimpanzees (Takahata
159 et al., 1984; Goodall, 1986; Pruetz et al., 2015), although the relative acquisition of different prey types
160 by males and females has not been systematically examined.

161 The risk-sensitivity hypothesis predicts sex differences in both the types of prey captured and
162 the factors affecting the decision to pursue risky prey. It predicts that 1) females will specialize in
163 terrestrial or sedentary prey (as these don't involve extensive pursuit, and/or involve a lower risk of
164 injury to the hunter). When present at a red colobus hunt attempt, the probability that a given female
165 hunts is expected to be 2) *lower* if she has a clinging infant, and 3) *greater* if she is high-ranking (as a
166 proxy for physical condition (Pusey et al., 2005)).

167

168 Male appropriation hypothesis

169 When females capture a prey item, it is often immediately stolen by an adult male. For example, seven
170 of 19 prey captured by females in mixed-sex parties at Gombe were immediately appropriated (Goodall

171 1986, p. 307). Ten of the 12 that were not stolen had been captured (and were retained) by Gigi, a large
172 (probably sterile) female who was able to resist male attempts to steal the carcass. To our knowledge,
173 appropriation by adult females has not been reported from any long-term site. The potential for carcass
174 appropriation by males may therefore deter females from hunting in parties containing many adult
175 males, as long as the likelihood of losing the carcass outweighs any net benefit to individual hunters in
176 large groups (via by-product mutualism; West-Eberhard, 1975; Brown, 1983; Connor, 1995), as is the
177 case for male chimpanzees (Gilby et al., 2008, 2015).

178 The male appropriation hypothesis predicts that 1) the likelihood of having one's carcass stolen
179 will be higher for females than for males; 2) when a female makes a kill, the probability that the carcass
180 is stolen from her will be positively associated with the number of adult males present; and 3) at a hunt,
181 the probability that a given female participates will be negatively correlated with the number of adult
182 male chimpanzees present.

183

184 **Methods**

185 *Research sites*

186 We tested these predictions using data collected over a total of 71 community-years from three
187 chimpanzee (*P. t. schweinfurthii*) communities at 2 East African study sites.

188 Gombe National Park comprises 35 km² of riverine forest, woodland and grassland (Clutton-
189 Brock and Gillett, 1979) on the shore of Lake Tanganyika, in Western Tanzania. It contains 3
190 communities of chimpanzees: Mitumba in the north, Kasekela in the center and Kalande in the south.
191 Research at Gombe began in 1960 (Goodall, 1986), and daily follows (see below) of adult chimpanzees
192 have been conducted in Kasekela and Mitumba since the early 1970s and mid-1990s, respectively

193 (Goodall, 1986; Wilson, 2012). The Kalande group remains relatively unhabituated. During our study
194 period (1976-2013), the Kasekela community consisted of an average of 11 (range: 7-14) adult males
195 and 17 (range: 11-25) adult females. Following previous hunting studies from Gombe (Gilby et al., 2006,
196 2013, 2015) and Kanyawara (Gilby and Wrangham, 2007; Gilby et al., 2008), we considered males that
197 were at least 12 years old as adults. We defined females as adult at ≥ 13 years of age, by which time they
198 have settled and the earliest pregnancies have been reported (Emery Thompson et al., 2007; Emery
199 Thompson, 2013). Mean yearly community range size (90% MCP) for Kasekela (± 1 SD) was 8.42 (± 2.99)
200 km^2 . The Mitumba community is much smaller than Kasekela. During our study period (2000-2015),
201 there was an average of 3 (range: 2-6) adult males and 8 (range: 6-9) adult females in Mitumba, ranging
202 in an area of 3.01 (± 0.47) km^2 .

203 The Kanyawara chimpanzee community inhabits an area of 16.4 km^2 (Wilson et al., 2012) in the
204 northwest quadrant of Kibale National Park, Uganda. Their range consists of approximately 60% moist
205 deciduous forest, with small areas of swamp, grassland and colonizing forest (Chapman & Wrangham
206 1993). The community has been continuously studied since 1987, and all individuals were habituated to
207 human observers by 1993. During our study period (1996-2015), there was an average of 12 (range: 9-
208 15) adult males and 16 (range: 12-19) adult females in Kanyawara.

209

210 *Data collection*

211 Gombe (Kasekela and Mitumba)

212 For the present study, we analyzed data collected on chimpanzees in Kasekela between 1976
213 and 2013, and in Mitumba between 2000 and 2014. Each day, field assistants follow a focal adult
214 chimpanzee in each community from night-nest to night-nest, when possible (Goodall, 1986; Wilson,

215 2012). Observers locate focal animals by utilizing ranging and party composition data from the previous
216 day, listening for vocalizations and/or checking recent feeding trees, and attempt to follow each adult
217 once per month. One observer uses a checksheet to continuously record party composition, the identity
218 of any females with full sexual swellings (indicating sexual receptivity), all feeding by the focal individual
219 and the presence of other species (regardless of any interest in hunting). The second observer uses all-
220 occurrence sampling (Altmann, 1974) to record the behavior of the focal chimpanzee, as well as
221 conspicuous group-level activities, including aggression, hunting, scavenging and piracy (theft of prey
222 from baboons). When hunting occurs, he records the identity of all chimps observed to pursue prey.
223 When possible, he records the identity of each chimpanzee to make a kill (or initially obtain the carcass
224 in the case of piracy or scavenging), and those that subsequently acquire and eat parts of the carcass.

225 Family follows (of mothers and dependent offspring) began in 1970 in Kasekela, and
226 complement the individual focal data described above. Observers collect data on a target mother, her
227 youngest dependent offspring, and next oldest offspring, when present. They record behaviors such as
228 traveling, resting, feeding, and grooming at 1-minute point samples, as well as collecting data on group
229 composition. Events such as hunts, aggression and vocalizations are recorded *ad libitum*.

230

231 Kanyawara

232 Field assistants at Kanyawara work in teams of two and enter the forest before dawn to locate
233 chimpanzees by returning to the nesting site from the previous night. If no nesting location is known,
234 then the assistants will listen for calls or wait at known fruiting trees. Once they locate a party of
235 chimpanzees, at 15 minute intervals, one observer records party composition (including female sexual
236 swellings), feeding, and (since 1996) the presence of any potential prey species within 100 m of the
237 chimpanzees. Prior to 2009, the second field assistant took detailed narrative notes on all occurrences of

238 conspicuous behavior, including aggression and hunting. Since 2009, these observations have targeted a
239 focal individual from the start of the follow to the end, usually all day. He records the behavior of the
240 focal individual at 1 minute intervals, as well as all occurrences of aggression, submissive behavior,
241 hunting, etc. When the chimpanzees begin hunting or are seen holding a prey item, both field assistants
242 spread out to ensure that they have clear observations of as many party members as possible. They
243 confer after the hunt and record all details on an additional predation-specific checksheet. This includes
244 the timing and identity of any chimpanzees who hunt, kill, possess a carcass and/or eat meat.

245

246 *Data extraction*

247 From the data collected at all three sites, we extracted the start times of all ‘encounters’ with
248 red colobus from the checksheets and notes. At Kasekela and Mitumba, an encounter began when red
249 colobus were first observed within approximately 50 meters of the focal chimpanzee. At Kanyawara, we
250 identified encounters as any 15 minute scan when the chimpanzees were within 100m of red colobus
251 that was not immediately preceded by another scan of red colobus. For each encounter, we calculated
252 the number of adult males and females who were present within 15 minutes of the start of the
253 encounter (Kasekela and Mitumba) or at the 15 minute scan at the start of an encounter (Kanyawara). In
254 all three communities, we matched each encounter with hunt observations to identify all ‘hunt
255 attempts’. We defined these as encounters at which there was at least one ‘hunter’ (any chimpanzee
256 observed to climb in pursuit of red colobus) of either sex (Gilby et al., 2006, 2008, 2015). We excluded all
257 encounters for which there was insufficient detail in the notes to determine whether or not at least one
258 chimpanzee actually climbed (Gilby et al., 2006, 2008, 2015). A ‘successful hunt’ was any hunt attempt
259 at which at least one monkey was killed. Whenever possible, we recorded the identity of the

260 chimpanzee(s) that made the kill(s). On the rare occasion when two chimpanzees simultaneously
261 captured the same prey item, we credited each captor with half of the kill.

262 In most cases, opportunities to acquire prey other than arboreal monkeys are difficult to identify
263 unless the attempt is successful. For example, it is unlikely that researchers will notice the presence of
264 nestlings in a tree hole, or a bushbuck fawn hidden in undergrowth unless the chimpanzees make an
265 attempt to acquire them. Usually, with these types of prey, the success rate is high, as the prey is
266 defenseless. Also, while the observers note encounters with all species, it is not always clear whether a
267 catchable prey item (e.g. an infant) is available. Therefore, we began all analyses of non-red colobus
268 prey items at acquisition. At Kanyawara, we identified non-red colobus acquisition events using the
269 predation checksheets. At Gombe, we used several methods. First, for the whole study period in each
270 community (Kasekela: 1976-2013, Mitumba: 2000-2014), we used the focal feeding records to identify
271 all cases when the focal chimpanzee ate non-colobus meat. We then extracted acquisition details from
272 the narrative notes. Second, for Kasekela between 1994 and 2013 (for which the narrative notes had
273 been digitally transcribed), we used keyword searches to find all instances when non-colobus animal
274 species were mentioned. Finally, we supplemented this dataset with successful hunts and meat eating
275 recorded during family follows (Kasekela) and by one of us (KW), who conducted 226 focal follows of
276 adolescent and young adult female chimpanzees (ages 8 – 16 years) between June 2011 and May 2014
277 in Kasekela and Mitumba (Walker, 2015).

278 When meat was acquired, we recorded 1) whether a prey item was eaten (at least partially) by
279 any member of the party, 2) the identity of the acquirer (if known), 3) chimpanzee party composition,
280 and 4) the mode of acquisition (kill, piracy, scavenging). At Gombe, 'piracy' occurred when the
281 chimpanzees were seen (or strongly suspected) to take a carcass from baboons. Piracy has not been
282 observed at Kanyawara. 'Scavenging' occurred when chimpanzees encountered and ate a prey item that

283 was already dead, and there were no predators in the area. Finally, at Kasekela and Kanyawara, for
284 every case when a chimpanzee possessed a prey item, and it was clear from the notes that the
285 observation was complete (i.e. the possessor was the focal chimpanzee or there was sufficient detail to
286 indicate that the entire possession was observed), we recorded whether another chimpanzee stole the
287 carcass from him/her. We defined such 'theft' as carcass appropriation that evoked a negative reaction
288 from the possessor (e.g. scream, retaliate). Theft data had not yet been extracted from the Swahili notes
289 from Mitumba.

290 For all three communities, we used submissive pant-grunt data to calculate female Elo
291 dominance scores (Neumann et al., 2011) using the method developed by Foerster et al. (in revision)
292 which uses maximum likelihood to determine the initial score for each individual and the weight (k) of
293 each dominance interaction. In order to be able to compare Elo-ratings across periods and communities,
294 we re-scaled them to fall between 0 and 1, preserving gaps among individuals. One Kanyawara female
295 (LP) never pant-grunted to another female during the study period, which made it impossible to
296 calculate an Elo-rating for her. Therefore, we gave her a score of 1 in the re-scaled hierarchy.

297

298 *Statistical Analyses*

299 We used R version 3.2.3 (R Development Core Team, 2015) with the lme4 (Bates et al., 2014),
300 multcomp (Hothorn et al., 2008) packages for statistical analyses. For simplicity, we describe the
301 specifics of each analysis in the Results section.

302

303 **Results**

304 *Summary statistics*

305 Kasekela

306 Kasekela chimpanzees were observed to feed upon 2206 vertebrate prey items between 1976 and 2013
307 (Table 2). Females accounted for 14.5% of the 1819 cases in which the sex of the initial acquirer was
308 clear, although females acquired a greater percentage of non-colobus prey (33.6% of 297). Notably,
309 females acquired 45.9% of the 49 bushbuck fawns and 69.2% of the 39 birds. By contrast, females
310 captured only 10.7% of the 1523 red colobus. Of the 360 non-colobus prey items for which the mode of
311 acquisition could be ascertained, there were 38 cases of piracy, in which chimpanzees stole meat (37
312 bushbuck and 1 bushpig) from baboons. In 44.4% (12/27) of the piracy cases in which the sex of the
313 acquirer was known, it was a female. There were three cases of scavenging – a blue monkey, a
314 bushbuck, and a redbill monkey. The observers estimated that the bushbuck (mainly ribs and skin) had
315 been dead for about 2 days based on the presence of maggots. In one case, chimpanzees retrieved a
316 rodent that was dropped by an eagle. There were no observed cases of piracy or scavenging of red
317 colobus.

318

319 Mitumba

320 Mitumba chimpanzees were observed to feed upon 254 prey items between 2000 and 2014 (Table 2).
321 208 of these were red colobus. As in Kasekela, females acquired a larger percentage of non-colobus
322 (33.3% (12/36)) than colobus prey, and 45% (5/11) of the bushbuck. However, females were responsible
323 for a greater percentage (19.1%) of the red colobus kills (35.5/186) in Mitumba than in Kasekela (10.7%).

324 There were 10 cases of piracy, all of which were bushbuck fawns stolen from baboons. In 3
325 (37.5%) of the 8 cases in which the sex of the acquirer was known, it was a female. No scavenging events
326 were observed.

327

328 Kanyawara

329 At Kanyawara, chimpanzees were observed to feed upon 349 prey items between 1996 and 2015 (Table
330 2). All but one of these (a red duiker, which was scavenged, see below) was an arboreal monkey. As at
331 Gombe, the majority (N = 288, 82.5%) were red colobus. The second-most frequent prey (N = 44) were
332 black and white colobus monkeys, which are not present at Gombe. When the killer could be identified,
333 females at Kanyawara were responsible for 5.1% and 16.7% of the 214 red colobus and 36 black and
334 white colobus kills, respectively. As at Gombe, females at Kanyawara were responsible for a higher
335 proportion of the kills of redbelt monkeys (3/4, 75%) and blue monkeys (3/5, 60%) than of red colobus.

336 There was one case in which chimpanzees caught a red duiker which they then used in
337 dominance displays for over an hour. The duiker eventually died and was not consumed, and is
338 therefore not included in the above totals. In a separate incident, an adult female found a dead duiker in
339 a tree and fed on part of the head. On 12 March, 1997, adult male KK emerged from the undergrowth
340 with an infant red colobus that the observers noted was decomposing, emitting a strong odor. KK fed on
341 the carcass for 120 minutes before relinquishing it to adult female LP, who was still eating it 15 minutes
342 later when the chimpanzee party was lost. There were no cases of piracy at Kanyawara.

343

344 *Opportunity hypothesis: Prey type and chimpanzee party size*

345 In Kasekela, a mean of 39.7% (S.E. = 0.7) of community adults were present at kills of arboreal
346 monkeys, compared to 32.4% (S.E. = 1.8) of kills of terrestrial or sedentary prey. To test whether this
347 difference was statistically significant, we ran a Generalized Linear Model (GLM) with the number of
348 adult chimpanzees present as the (continuous) dependent variable, and prey type (arboreal monkey,

349 other) as a categorical independent variable. To control for changes in community size over time, we
350 included the number of adult chimpanzees alive in the community on that date as a second factor in the
351 model. As expected, the association between adult party size and adult community size was positive
352 (parameter estimate: 0.50, $t = 12.8$, $P < 0.0001$). With this controlled for, chimpanzee party size at kills of
353 arboreal monkeys was significantly greater than at kills of other prey: (estimate = 1.94, $t = 3.66$, $P =$
354 0.0003), supporting the opportunity hypothesis (Table 1).

355 In Mitumba, a mean of 61.5% (S.E. = 2.1), of community adults were present at kills of arboreal
356 monkeys ($N = 145$) compared to 58.5% (S.E. = 6.5) of terrestrial or sedentary prey. This difference was
357 not statistically significant (GLM, estimate = 0.46, $t = 0.65$, $P = 0.52$) whether or not we controlled for the
358 number of adults in the community (which was not significant at $P = 0.42$). Therefore, in Mitumba, there
359 was no evidence that fewer community members were present at hunts of prey that may require stealth
360 or an element of surprise to capture, a finding that does not support the Opportunity hypothesis.

361 We were unable to test this prediction at Kanyawara, where all but one of the 346 identifiable prey
362 items were arboreal monkeys.

363

364 *Opportunity hypothesis: Sex differences in red colobus encounter rate*

365 To test the prediction that females encounter red colobus less often than males do, we ran one
366 Generalized Linear Mixed Model (GLMM) for each community with focal follow as the unit of analysis
367 and red colobus encounter (Y/N) as the response variable. Note that full-day focal data collection began
368 at Kanyawara in 2009, yielding only 7 years of data. We included focal chimpanzee sex and follow
369 duration as main effects, with a binomial error structure, logit link function, and focal chimpanzee ID as
370 a random effect.

371 At all three sites, there was a significant, positive association between follow duration and the
372 probability of encountering red colobus (Kasekela: estimate = 0.19, $Z = 21.2$, $P < 0.0001$; Mitumba:
373 estimate = 0.15, $Z = 10.0$, $P < 0.0001$; Kanyawara: estimate = 0.08, $Z = 2.9$, $P = 0.004$). With follow
374 duration statistically controlled for, the models indicated that the probability of encountering red
375 colobus was significantly lower if the focal chimpanzee was female at Kasekela (estimate = -0.66, $Z = -$
376 5.1, $P < 0.0001$) and at Kanyawara (estimate = -0.31, $Z = -2.1$, $P = 0.04$), supporting the opportunity
377 hypothesis. This was not the case at Mitumba, however ($Z = 0.1$, $P = 0.9$).

378

379 *Opportunity hypothesis: Female gregariousness and red colobus hunting frequency*

380 For each adult female in each community, we determined the number of adults present at each 15
381 minute interval that she was observed in a party, and then calculated the mean for each year she was an
382 adult. We used this measure of gregariousness as a main effect in one GLMM per community, with red
383 colobus hunting frequency (number of red colobus hunt attempts in a given year at which the female
384 hunted) as the dependent variable. The models used a Poisson link function and included observation
385 time of each female as an offset, with year and chimpanzee ID as random effects.

386 There was a strong positive association between a female's gregariousness and her participation
387 in red colobus hunting in all three communities (Kasekela: estimate = 0.34, $z = 6.17$, $P < 0.0001$;
388 Mitumba: estimate = 1.54, $z = 6.31$, $P < 0.0001$, Kanyawara: estimate = 0.63, $z = 5.11$, $P < 0.0001$),
389 supporting the opportunity hypothesis.

390

391 *Opportunity hypothesis: Hunting probability by sex*

392 Next, we asked whether, when present at a red colobus hunt attempt, focal females were less likely to
393 hunt than focal males were. For each community, we ran a GLMM (error structure: binomial, link
394 function: logit, random effect: focal ID) with focal hunt (Y/N) as the dependent variable and sex of the
395 focal as the main effect. The focal chimpanzee was less likely to participate in a hunt if female than if
396 male at Kasekela (N=1498 hunts, 432 focal females, estimate = -1.22, Z = -6.9, P < 0.0001) and Mitumba
397 (N = 303 hunts, 166 focal females, estimate = -1.01, Z = -4.08, P < 0.0001), but not at Kanyawara (35
398 hunts, 9 focal females, estimate = -2.31, Z = -1.50, P = 0.13) (Figure 1). The lack of statistical significance
399 at Kanyawara was likely due to the relatively small sample size (7 years of focal data, 35 hunt attempts).
400 Therefore, we ran one more GLM, this time on the full Kanyawara dataset (1996-2015), with each adult
401 chimpanzee present at a hunt attempt (rather than the focal individual) as the sampling unit. We
402 modelled the probability that a given individual hunted (Y/N) as a function of sex, with chimpanzee ID
403 and hunt ID as random factors. When analyzed in this way, female chimpanzees were significantly less
404 likely to participate than males were (estimate = -2.27, Z = -5.72, P < 0.0001).

405 Together with the previous analyses of red colobus encounter rates, these results indicate that
406 the opportunity hypothesis does not account for all the variance in female hunting frequency. While
407 females in Kasekela and Kanyawara were less likely to encounter red colobus than males were, and
408 female gregariousness was correlated with hunting frequency at all three sites, females were still less
409 likely than males to participate in a hunt when given the opportunity.

410

411 *Risk-sensitivity hypothesis: Prey type vs sex of acquirer*

412 Given the relatively limited prey profile at Kanyawara, we conducted the following analysis for Kasekela
413 and Mitumba only. For each prey item acquired, we used a Generalized Linear Model (GLM) to

414 determine whether the sex of the acquirer was associated with prey type. The GLM modeled the
415 probability that the acquirer was female (Y/N), using a binomial error structure and logit link function.
416 We included prey type (arboreal monkey, bushpig/baboon, bushbuck/other) as a main effect in the
417 model. In order to account for chance, we also included the number of adult male and adult female
418 chimpanzees present at the acquisition as main effects.

419 At Kasekela, as expected by chance, the likelihood that a prey acquirer was female correlated
420 negatively with the number of adult male chimpanzees (estimate = -0.21, $z = -7.7$, $P < 0.0001$) and
421 positively with the number of adult females (estimate = 0.14, $z = 6.89$, $P < 0.0001$) present at a prey
422 acquisition event. With these factors controlled for, the probability that a given prey item was acquired
423 by a female was higher if the prey was a bushpig or baboon than if it was an arboreal monkey (estimate =
424 0.56, $z = 2.3$, $P = 0.02$) (Figure 2). If the prey was a bushbuck (or egg, rodent, etc.) the odds that the
425 acquirer was female was even higher (estimate = 2.2, $Z = 8.99$, $P < 0.0001$).

426 In Mitumba, there was no effect of the number of adult male ($Z = -0.28$, $P = 0.07$) or female ($Z = -$
427 0.06 , $P = 0.41$) chimpanzees on the probability that a prey acquirer was female. However, as in Kasekela,
428 when the prey was bushbuck/other, the probability that the acquirer was female was significantly higher
429 than if the prey was an arboreal monkey (estimate = 1.77, $Z = 3.09$, $P = 0.002$), or a baboon or bushpig
430 (estimate = 3.17, $Z = 2.70$, $P = 0.007$, Figure 2). There was no sex difference in the acquisition of
431 baboon/bushpig and arboreal monkeys ($Z = -1.32$, $P = 0.19$).

432

433 *Risk-sensitivity and male appropriation hypotheses: female participation in red colobus hunts*

434 Given the potential confounding effects of dominance rank, clinging offspring and adult male party size,
435 we ran separate GLMMs for each community that incorporated these variables, thus simultaneously

436 testing the risk sensitivity and male appropriation hypotheses. For Kasekela and Mitumba, we modeled
437 the probability that a focal female hunted red colobus (when present at a hunt attempt), with her scaled
438 Elo-rating on that day, dependent offspring (≤ 2 yr old, Y/N) and adult male party size as main effects. We
439 used a binomial error structure, logit link function, and included focal ID as a random effect. Because
440 there was only 1 red colobus hunt by a focal female at Kanyawara, we ran a similar GLMM on the entire
441 dataset (1996-2015), with each female present at a hunt attempt (rather than the focal) as the unit of
442 analysis and hunt ID as an additional random effect.

443 There was a significant positive association between dominance rank and focal female hunting
444 probability at Kasekela (N = 384 hunt attempts attended, 35 females), (Table 3), supporting the risk
445 sensitivity hypothesis. However, this was not the case at Mitumba (N = 123 hunt attempts attended, 9
446 females) or Kanyawara (N = 135 hunt attempts attended, 18 females, mean 3.9 females per hunt)

447 Focal females at both Kasekela and Mitumba were equally likely to hunt red colobus whether or
448 not they had an offspring under two years of age (Table 3), a result that does not support the Risk
449 Sensitivity hypothesis. At Kanyawara, females with offspring under two years old were actually more
450 likely to hunt than those with older (or no) offspring (Table 3). To investigate this result more fully, we
451 conducted a pair-wise test on the 8 adult females that were present for at least 15 red colobus hunt
452 attempts with an offspring under 2 years of age, and 15 hunt attempts without. For each female, we
453 calculated the proportion of hunt attempts in which she hunted with and without young offspring. Five
454 females exhibited higher rates when they had young offspring, and three had lower rates, a difference
455 that was not statistically significant (Wilcoxon Signed Ranks Test, $V = 33$, $p = 0.23$).

456 Focal females at Kasekela were less likely to hunt as the number of adult males present
457 increased (Table 3), supporting the male appropriation hypothesis. However, this was not the case at
458 Mitumba or with female hunt attendees at Kanyawara (Table 3).

459

460 *Male appropriation: Carcass theft vs. sex and # adult males*

461 For each carcass possession by an adult chimpanzee, we recorded whether or not the possessor had the
462 carcass stolen. At Kasekela, there were 220 cases for which we could be absolutely sure whether or not
463 theft took place – e.g. the possessor was the focal individual, a theft was explicitly described, or there
464 were multiple descriptions of a non-focal individual continually possessing meat from beginning to end.
465 If a non-focal meat possessor was simply seen later without meat, and there was no description of a
466 theft, we did not include the possession in the following analysis. Carcasses were stolen from adult
467 males in 3.8% (5/131) possessions, compared to 28.1% (25/89) for females. This difference was
468 statistically significant – females were more likely to have their carcass stolen than males were: (GLMM
469 of steal (Y/N) vs. female possessor (Y/N): Estimate: 2.29, $Z = 4.45$, $P < 0.0001$, error = binomial, link =
470 logit, random effect = chimpanzee ID). We then ran another GLMM, including the number of adult males
471 present and the female possessor*adult males interaction term. The interaction term was significant,
472 indicating that the probability that a female had the carcass stolen from her increased with the number
473 of males present (Table 4, Figure 3). These results support the male appropriation hypothesis.

474 At Kanyawara, there were 207 initial carcass possessions by adult chimpanzees for which it
475 could be determined conclusively whether or not theft occurred. Carcasses were stolen from adult
476 females in 21.4 % (3/14) of possessions, compared to 8.3% (16/193) for males. However, this difference
477 was not statistically significant (GLMM: estimate = 1.46, $Z = 1.36$, $P = 0.17$, error = binomial, link = logit,
478 random effect = chimpanzee ID), probably due to the relative rarity of possessions by adult females.
479 Similarly, with the small sample, we were unable to test whether theft from females increased with
480 adult male party size. However, of the 3 thefts from adult females, 2 occurred in relatively large groups
481 (10 and 11 adult males).

482

483 **Discussion**

484 We analyzed long-term data from three eastern chimpanzee communities in order to test hypotheses
485 explaining sex differences in predation in one of human's closest relatives. Genetic, morphological and
486 behavioral data indicate that the chimpanzee is a valuable point of comparison for identifying the
487 possible range of behavior exhibited by the last common ancestor of apes and humans (Muller et al., in
488 revision.; Wrangham and Pilbeam, 2001; Stanford, 2012). Our results provide insight into the biological
489 constraints faced by early hominin females before the development of regular offspring provisioning
490 and food sharing within the pair bond. As is ubiquitous among modern human societies, female
491 chimpanzees in all three study communities hunted less often than males did. At Kasekela and
492 Kanyawara, which were of similar mean size (28 adults) and female:male sex ratio (Kasekela: 1.5:1;
493 Kanyawara: 1.3:1), females were responsible for only 14.5% and 8.8% of all kills, respectively. At
494 Mitumba, which had fewer adults (11) and a more female-biased sex ratio (2.6:1), females accounted for
495 21.4% of kills.

496

497 *Females had fewer hunting opportunities*

498 Part of the reason for the relatively low female hunting rates at Kasekela and Kanyawara was
499 that females there had fewer opportunities to capture red colobus, chimpanzees' most frequent prey.
500 Females, which are less gregarious than males, encountered red colobus less often than males did,
501 because large parties travel greater distances and are therefore more likely to encounter a monkey
502 troop (Gilby et al., 2013). Also, party sizes at Kasekela were larger at kills of red colobus than other of
503 prey types, suggesting that relatively gregarious females more quality chances to hunt (because larger

504 parties are more likely to hunt red colobus (reviewed in Newton-Fisher, 2014)). Indeed, in all three
505 communities, the total number of kills a female made was positively correlated with her gregariousness.
506 In Mitumba, however, females and males were equally likely to encounter red colobus, and there was
507 no difference in the average party size at hunts of arboreal monkeys versus other prey. It may be that
508 parties are more stable (in size and composition) in this smaller community, explaining this lack of sex
509 difference. Previous work showed that Mitumba is unusual in that hunting probability was positively
510 associated with female, as well as male, party size (Gilby et al., 2015), suggesting that females play a
511 more active role in hunts. This is possible, however at all three sites in the current study, when present
512 at a red colobus hunt attempt, the odds that a given female participated were 64-90% lower than they
513 were for a male. Therefore, the opportunity hypothesis only partly explains the sex difference in
514 predation rates at Kasekela and Kanyawara, indicating that there are other constraints on female
515 hunting in all three communities.

516 Among human foragers, women travel shorter distances than men (e.g. the Hadza (Marlowe,
517 2010; Pontzer et al., 2015)), but we are not aware of any studies that explicitly address sex differences in
518 prey encounter rates. This is complicated by the fact that men typically travel farther farther *because*
519 they seeking prey. By contrast, both male and female chimpanzees at Gombe and Kanyawara make
520 hunting decisions only when they encounter prey. (At Ngogo and Tai, however, male chimpanzees do
521 appear to deliberately search for prey (Boesch and Boesch-Achermann, 2000; Watts and Mitani,
522 2002a)). Additionally, when specialized tools (e.g. poisoned arrows) are needed to kill certain species
523 that men typically target, women foraging for plant material might not be equipped to hunt upon
524 chance encounter with prey.

525

526 *Risk-aversion – females targeted terrestrial/sedentary prey*

527 Relative to males, variation in female reproductive success is determined more by calorie intake than by
528 access to mates. Females are therefore more constrained by the need to acquire enough food to satisfy
529 their daily nutritional requirements. Human females also forage for, and share with, their dependents.
530 Hence, women follow a risk-averse foraging strategy, in which they seek low-variance, but often low-
531 quality, foods (Marlowe, 2007; Bliege Bird and Codding, 2015). When they do hunt, they typically target
532 small, sedentary prey. We found that female chimpanzees follow a similar hunting strategy. While
533 females participated successfully in hunts of arboreal monkeys in both Gombe communities (accounting
534 for 11.2% and 19.5% of kills at Kasekela and Mitumba, respectively), the probability that a killer (or
535 acquirer, in the case of piracy) was female was greater when the prey was terrestrial. Hunts of arboreal
536 monkeys at Gombe are lengthy, energetically costly, and involve conflict with formidable males
537 equipped with large canines. By contrast, while hunts of infant bushpigs and baboons involve
538 confrontations with adults, they do not appear to entail the same energetic costs, and there is no risk of
539 falling. Capturing sedentary or concealed prey appears to involve even fewer costs, and indeed,
540 bushbuck fawns, nestlings, eggs and rodents were captured more often by females than by males at
541 Kasekela and Mitumba. It is important to note, however, that in 42.9% (15/35) of the cases of bushbuck
542 piracy at Gombe, the thief was female, indicating that they frequently risk confrontation with baboons.
543 This suggests that females at Gombe are most sensitive to the costs of arboreal pursuit, rather than risk
544 of injury from prey.

545 At Kanyawara, where the prey profile is almost exclusively arboreal monkeys, females captured
546 16.7% (6/36 for which the sex of the killer was known) of the black and white colobus monkeys,
547 compared to only 5.1% (11/ 214) of the red colobus. Red colobus at Kanyawara actively and aggressively
548 defend themselves, sometimes preemptively attacking chimpanzees that show no interest in hunting
549 (Kibale Chimpanzee Project, unpublished data). By contrast, black and white colobus appear more
550 passive and slow, are less defensive in the presence of chimpanzees, and therefore seem to be less

551 costly to pursue. Given the rarity of terrestrial/sedentary prey at Kanyawara, perhaps black and white
552 colobus present a valuable low-cost option for females. However, if this is the case, why don't
553 chimpanzees hunt them more frequently? One possibility is that their meat is somehow less desirable, a
554 notion that is supported by observations of lower levels of excitement and conflict at kills of black and
555 white colobus relative to red colobus (Kibale Chimpanzee Project, unpublished data).

556

557 *Risk-aversion – clinging offspring did not deter females from hunting red colobus*

558 The foraging strategies of human females must also allow for the transport and care of dependent
559 offspring. Often this involves travelling shorter distances than men, and targeting resources that allow
560 them to forage while carrying children while avoiding contact with dangerous prey. We expected that
561 female chimpanzees would be constrained in similar ways. However, female chimpanzees with young
562 offspring (≤ 2 yrs) did not avoid hunting red colobus. There are several possible explanations for this
563 result. Perhaps females temporarily leave young offspring behind while hunting. Or, the benefits of
564 meat for lactating females may offset the added costs of hunting with offspring. That is, lactating
565 females may take on the added costs of hunting with offspring because they benefit disproportionately
566 (relative to other females) by obtaining food rich in fat and micronutrients. However, O'Malley et al.
567 (2016) found that among lower-ranking females at Kasekela, pregnancy was associated with greater
568 meat consumption than lactation was (although this could result from differences in begging rather than
569 hunting). Finally, in our study, 'hunt' was a binary variable, based on whether or not a chimpanzee
570 climbed in active pursuit of prey. It is possible that females with young offspring may hunt just as often
571 as other females, but they do so with less 'intensity', or they give up more easily.

572

573 *Risk-aversion – high-ranking females hunted more*

574 The risk-sensitivity hypothesis predicts that individuals in good physical condition (indicative of a
575 positive energy balance), should be more willing than individuals in poor condition to target resources
576 with some risk of failure. We are not aware of any studies in humans that examine within-sex variation
577 in risk-prone foraging. Among chimpanzees, however, the probability that a Kasekela female hunted red
578 colobus was positively correlated with dominance rank. In that community, high ranking females weigh
579 more, and their mass fluctuates less than that of low-ranking females (Pusey et al. 2005), suggesting that
580 they have access to higher quality and/or less variable resources. As such, high-ranking females may be
581 more likely to have sufficient energetic reserves required to hunt, or they are able to absorb the costs of
582 failure more easily. A low-ranking female may forego hunting in favor of more predictably-acquired
583 plant foods. There are, of course, many other factors associated with dominance rank that are likely to
584 affect female hunting decisions, such as age, experience and gregariousness. This may explain why there
585 was no statistical relationship between female rank and hunting at Kanyawara or Mitumba, although
586 small sample sizes cannot be ruled out.

587

588 *Male appropriation – males stole carcasses from females*

589 Among human foragers, sharing norms ensure that food is distributed among group members, and it
590 therefore seems unlikely that women avoid hunting because of the fear of losing the quarry to
591 aggressive males. However, this appears to be a real cost among chimpanzees, at least at Kasekela.
592 There, the probability that a given female hunted red colobus was negatively correlated with the
593 number of adult males present in the party. By contrast, previous work at several sites has shown that
594 the likelihood of hunting by males increased with male party size (reviewed by Newton-Fisher, 2014).
595 Gilby et al. (2008, 2015) argued that this pattern is the result of a by-product mutualism in which the
596 independent actions of individual hunters incidentally decrease the costs for other hunters, thus

597 providing an incentive to join a hunt. Why does this not appear to apply to females at Kasekela? We
598 suggest that any decrease in hunting costs associated with the presence of more male hunters is offset
599 by a greater likelihood that a successful female hunter will immediately have the carcass stolen. Indeed,
600 females at Kasekela were much more likely to have carcasses stolen from them than males were, and
601 the probability of theft from a female increased with male party size. At Kanyawara and Mitumba,
602 however, there was no association between adult male party size and female hunting probability. At
603 Mitumba, we suspect that this was due to the small number of males; either there was not enough
604 variation in the number of males that could be present, or theft may be less of a threat. Unfortunately,
605 theft data from Mitumba are not currently available. The small sample of female carcass possessions at
606 Kanyawara prevented statistical tests of theft versus male party size.

607

608 *Overall predation rates differed among sites*

609 Given that humans inhabit a wide range of habitats, it is not surprising that diets vary considerably. By
610 comparison, chimpanzees have a relatively limited range, restricted to forests and woodlands across
611 central Africa. Nevertheless, both chimpanzee prey profiles and meat-eating frequency vary greatly,
612 even among East African sites (Newton-Fisher, 2014). Our study suggests that both ecological and
613 demographic factors help to explain this variation. Although they were of similar size (~28 adults), meat
614 eating was 3 times more frequent at Kasekela (~58 prey/year) than at Kanyawara (~18 prey/year), a
615 difference that could not be explained by either red colobus encounter rate or research effort. At
616 Mitumba, although much smaller (~11 adults), chimpanzees captured prey at a similar rate (17
617 prey/year) as at Kanyawara. For a community of its size that regularly encounters its most common
618 prey, why do the Kanyawara chimpanzees hunt so rarely? Forest structure, grouping and travel patterns,
619 and prey distribution are all likely factors. For example, chimpanzees are more likely to hunt red colobus

620 in areas with broken canopy at Ngogo (Mitani and Watts, 2001) and in woodland (where trees are
621 sparsely distributed) at Kasekela (Gilby et al., 2006). Perhaps there are relatively few low-cost options to
622 hunt arboreal monkeys at Kanyawara. At all sites where chimpanzees hunt red colobus, larger
623 chimpanzee parties are more likely to hunt and to succeed (reviewed by Newton-Fisher, 2014). The
624 same is true at Kanyawara (Gilby et al., 2008), but it may be that large parties form relatively rarely in
625 comparison to Kasekela. Strikingly, Kanyawara chimpanzees focused almost exclusively on arboreal
626 monkeys. The most parsimonious explanation for this result is that alternative prey species are relatively
627 rare within their range. While many of the types of prey targeted at Gombe (e.g. small ungulates) are
628 present at Kanyawara, and eaten by chimpanzees elsewhere within the same forest (Ngogo: Watts and
629 Mitani, 2002), their distribution and abundance is not well documented.

630

631 *Conclusions*

632 There was mixed support for 3 hypotheses addressing the relatively low rates of predation by
633 female chimpanzees. In the two larger communities, females had fewer opportunities to hunt red
634 colobus than males did. In the smaller Mitumba community, though, males and females were equally
635 likely to encounter red colobus. In support of the notion that females are less risk-prone than males,
636 females were more likely to hunt terrestrial and/or sedentary prey at Gombe. However, this was not the
637 case at Kanyawara, where they preyed upon arboreal monkeys almost exclusively. Furthermore, clinging
638 offspring did not hamper female participation in hunts, and only Kasekela females hunted more often if
639 they were high-ranking. Finally, female hunting probability was negatively affected by the threat of
640 losing the carcass to a male at Kasekela, but not Mitumba or Kanyawara.

641 This study highlights the variability in female hunting that exists between communities, and
642 raises many questions about the sources of these differences. Why don't the Kanyawara chimpanzees
643 hunt terrestrial or sedentary prey? Why did females at Mitumba encounter red colobus at the same rate
644 as males did? Future studies must examine ecological variation, community composition, range size and
645 prey dynamics to explain these inter-community differences. Additionally, females also varied in their
646 hunting decisions *within* communities. For example, dominance rank was an important determinant of
647 female hunting at Kasekela. Future studies will likely identify other factors affecting individual variation,
648 such as demography and kinship.

649 It is important to acknowledge the possibility that small sample sizes might be affecting our
650 results. Despite being the most comprehensive study of chimpanzee hunting to date, spanning 71 years
651 and 3 communities, we were unable to test all of our predictions at Mitumba or Kanyawara. For
652 example, over 20 years of Kanyawara data collection observers recorded over 200 initial monkey
653 possessions by adult chimpanzees. However, only 14 of those were by females and in only 3 cases did a
654 female have the carcass stolen. While it is possible that Kanyawara females are not hunting because of
655 the fear of theft by males, at the current rate, many more years of data are needed to test this
656 prediction. This substantiates the necessity of long-term data when studying a rare behavior performed
657 by a long-lived species and also highlights the need for comparable datasets collected from multiple
658 sites where animals experience different social and ecological environments.

659 Ultimately, however, we have shown that despite variation within and between communities,
660 female chimpanzees hunt significantly less often than adult males and that this difference is due to a
661 number of factors that constrain females. This has important implications for understanding the
662 evolution of human hunting patterns. We suggest that before the advent of social obligations regarding
663 sharing and provisioning, hominin females faced similar constraints as chimpanzees. An inherent sex

664 difference in hunting behavior would have provided the basis for the evolution of the sexual division of
665 labor among modern humans. Finally, our study identifies the need to more fully understand the
666 constraints that modern humans face. What factors other than the prospect of sharing and provisioning
667 affect what (and when) women hunt? For example, we are not aware of data from human populations
668 on sex differences in prey encounter rate. We suggest that the current study can be used as a model for
669 future research on human hunting patterns.

670

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861

862

863 **Figure legends**

864 Figure 1. Relationship between the probability of hunting by a focal chimpanzee (when present at a red
865 colobus hunt attempt) and sex of the focal. These predicted values were calculated from the GLMM
866 described in the text, with error bars representing 1 standard error. Study period, and the number of
867 hunts and focal chimpanzees are reported for each community. ***P < 0.0001.

868

869 Figure 2. Prey type by sex of acquirer, Kasekela. Numbers indicate the total prey items for which the
870 identity of the killer was known. * P<0.05; ** P<0.005. P-values based on GLMs described in the text,
871 which controlled for the number of male and female chimpanzees present at a kill.

872

873 Figure 3. Likelihood of carcass theft vs. sex of possessor and number of adult male chimpanzees present,
874 Kasekela. Number of adult males was divided into categories for illustration only. In parties with more
875 males, females were more likely to have the carcass stolen than in parties with fewer males. Males
876 rarely had carcasses stolen, and were not affected by adult male party size. Numbers indicate sample
877 sizes.

878

879 **Tables and table legends**

| Hypothesis | Predictions | Supported? | | |
|---------------------------|---|------------|---------|-----------|
| | | Kasekela | Mitumba | Kanyawara |
| Opportunity | 1) Chimp parties smaller for terrestrial/sedentary prey | Y | N | |
| | 2) Females encounter red colobus less often than males do | Y | N | Y |
| | 3) Frequency of red colobus hunting correlates positively with female gregariousness | Y | Y | Y |
| | 4) When present at a red colobus hunt, males and females equally likely to participate. | N | N | N |
| Risk-sensitivity | 1) Females will specialize in terrestrial or sedentary prey | Y | Y | |
| | 2) At a red colobus hunt, a female will be : | | | |
| | a) less likely to participate with clinging offspring | N | N | N |
| | b) more likely to participate if high-ranking | Y | N | N |
| Male appropriation | 1) Likelihood of carcass theft higher for females | Y | N | |
| | 2) Stealing from females will occur more often in parties with many adult males | Y | | N |
| | 3) At a hunt, the probability that a female participates will be negatively correlated with # males present | Y | N | N |

880

881 **Table 1:** Summary of hypotheses, predictions and results. Grey cells indicate that a prediction could not
 882 be tested in a particular community. See text for explanation.

| Community | Sex of Killer | All Prey | Arboreal Monkeys | | | | | | Terrestrial/Active | | | | Concealed/sedentary/other | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|--------------------|--------|---------------|-------|---------------------------|------|------------|--------|------|--------|--------|-----|---------|-------|
| | | | Red colobus | Black & white colobus | Red-tailed monkey | Blue monkey | Grey-cheeked mangabey | Total | Bushpig | Baboon | Vervet monkey | Total | Bushbuck | Bird | Red duiker | Rodent | Egg | Galago | Lizard | Bat | Unknown | Total |
| Kasekela 1976-2013 | M | 1556 | 1359.5 | | 10.5 | 3 | | 1373 | 84.5 | 55 | 1 | 140.5 | 26.5 | 12 | | 2 | 1 | | 1 | | | 42.5 |
| | F | 263 | 163.5 | | 5.5 | 4 | | 173 | 23.5 | 7 | | 30.5 | 22.5 | 27 | | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | | | 60.5 |
| | U | 387 | 290 | | 6 | 3 | | 299 | 31 | 22 | | 53 | 34 | 1 | | | | | | | | 35 |
| | Total | 2206 | 1813 | | 22 | 10 | | 1845 | 139 | 84 | 1 | 224 | 83 | 40 | | 4 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 | | 138 |
| | % by F† | 14.5 | 10.7 | | 34.4 | 57.1 | | 11.2 | 21.8 | 11.3 | 0 | 17.8 | 45.9 | 69.2 | | | 87.5 | | | | | 58.7 |
| Mitumba 2000-2014 | M | 174.5 | 150.5 | | 3 | 1 | | 154.5 | 11 | 3 | | 14 | 6 | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | F | 47.5 | 35.5 | | 1 | 1 | | 37.5 | 1 | | | 1 | 5 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 9 |
| | U | 32 | 22 | | 2 | | | 24 | 2 | | | 2 | 6 | | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | Total | 254 | 208 | | 6 | 2 | | 216 | 14 | 3 | | 17 | 17 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | | | | 21 |
| | % by F† | 21.4 | 19.1 | | 25 | 50 | | 19.5 | 8.3 | 0 | | 6.7 | 45.5 | 100 | | 100 | 100 | | | | | 60 |
| Kanyawara 1996-2015 | M | 238 | 203 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 238 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | F | 23 | 11 | 6 | 3 | 3 | | 23 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| | U | 88 | 74 | 8 | 1 | 1 | | 84 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | 4 |
| | Total | 349 | 288 | 44 | 5 | 6 | 2 | 345 | | | | | | | 1 | | | | | | 3 | 4 |
| | % by F† | 8.8 | 5.1 | 16.7 | 75 | 60 | 0 | 8.8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

883

884 †Only cases when sex of acquirer is known

885

886 **Table 2:** Predation totals by community, sex of killer and prey type. Sex of killer: M = Male, F = Female, U = Unknown. Decimals arise when one prey

887 item is captured jointly by a male and a female - each was credited with half of the kill. Shaded cells indicate absence of that species at that site.

| Community | Fixed Effect | Estimate | Z | P-value |
|-----------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Kasekela | Intercept | -4.29 | -1.28 | 0.2 |
| | Scaled Elo-rating | 0.93 | 2.01 | 0.04 |
| | Offspring <= 2yr | 0.18 | 0.76 | 0.45 |
| | Adult males | -0.06 | -2 | 0.04 |
| Mitumba | Intercept | -0.25 | -0.39 | 0.7 |
| | Scaled Elo-rating | -0.61 | -0.96 | 0.34 |
| | Offspring <= 2yr | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.86 |
| | Adult males | -0.26 | -1.25 | 0.21 |
| Kanyawara | Intercept | -6.4 | -2.76 | 0.006 |
| | Scaled Elo-rating | -0.17 | -0.19 | 0.85 |
| | Offspring <= 2yr | 0.82 | 1.93 | 0.050 |
| | Adult males | 0.18 | 1.15 | 0.25 |

888

889 **Table 3:** Summary of GLMMs of female hunting probability (Y/N) vs. dominance rank, clinging offspring
890 and adult male party size. Bold indicates statistical significance.

891

| Fixed Effect | Estimate | Z | P-value |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Intercept | -2.66 | -2.99 | 0.003 |
| Female possessor (Y) | 0.25 | 0.238 | 0.81 |
| # Adult Males | -0.08 | -0.69 | 0.49 |
| Female Possessor (Y)* #Adult Males | 0.29 | 2.2 | 0.03 |

892

893 **Table 4.** Output of GLMM of the probability of having a carcass stolen vs. sex of the possessor and the

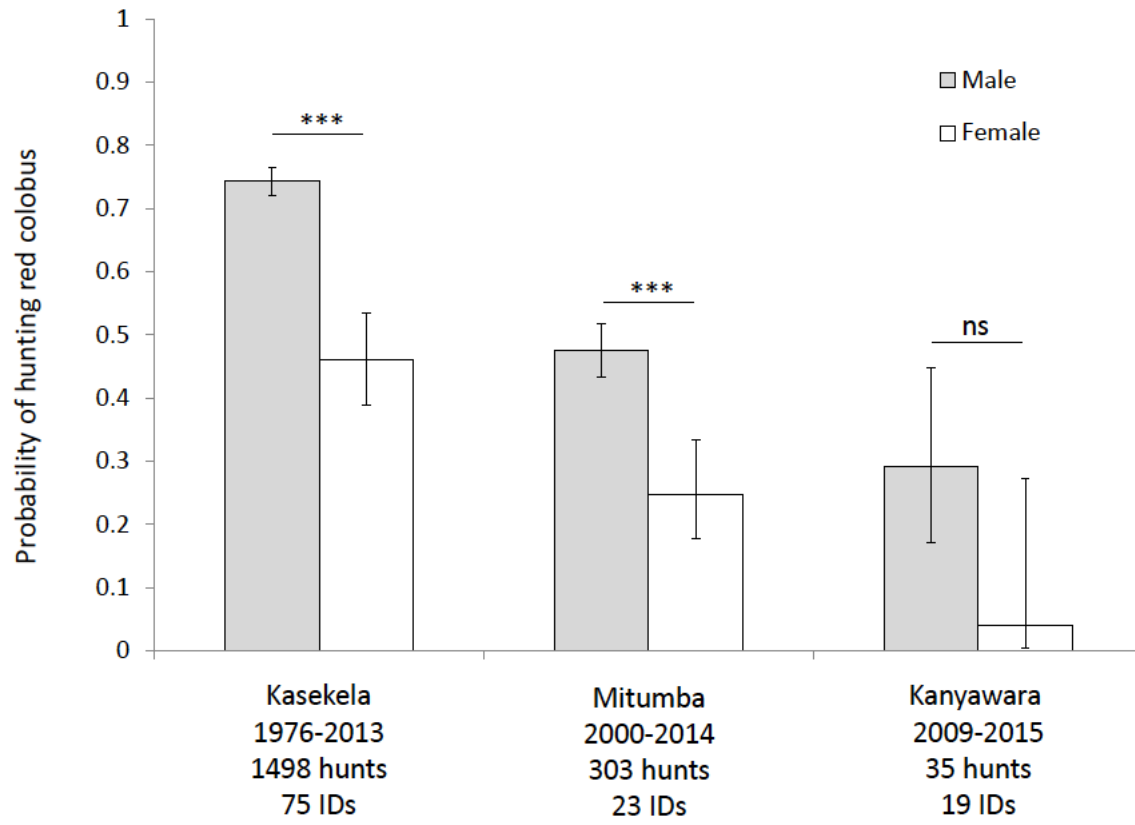
894 number of adult males present, Kasekela. Bold indicates statistical significance

895

896

897 Fig. 1

898

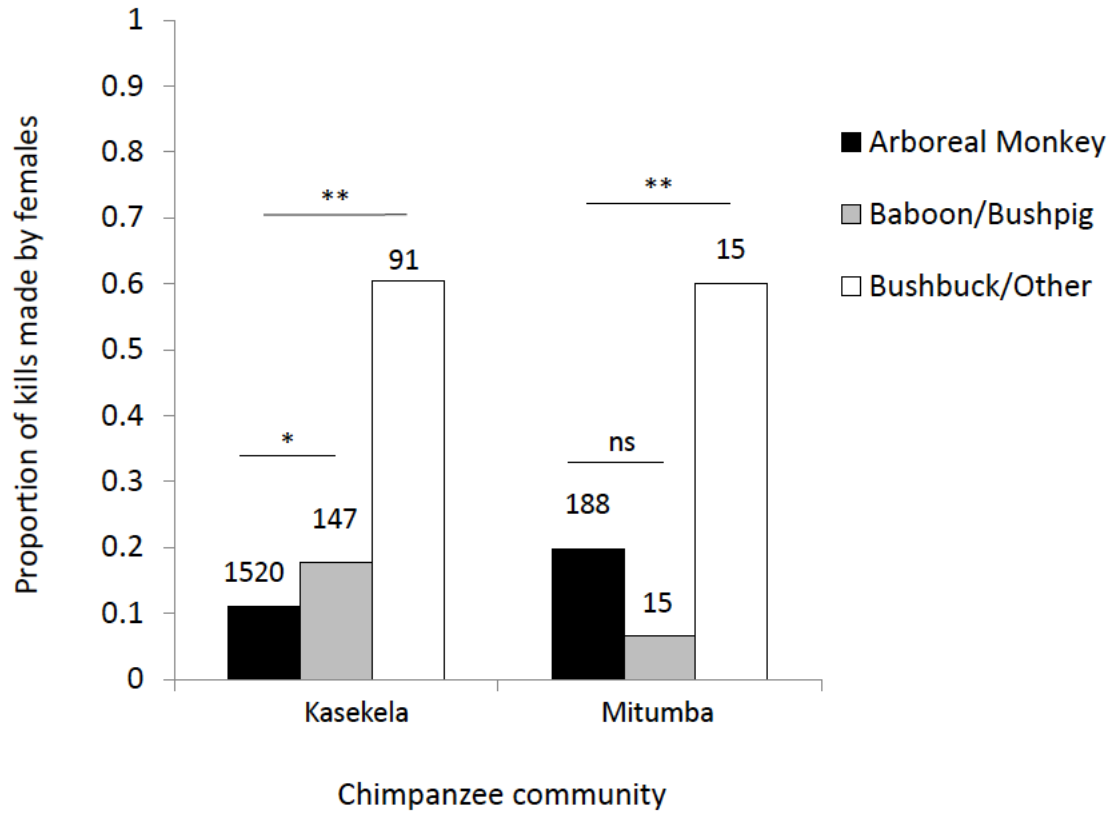


899

900

901 Fig. 2

902



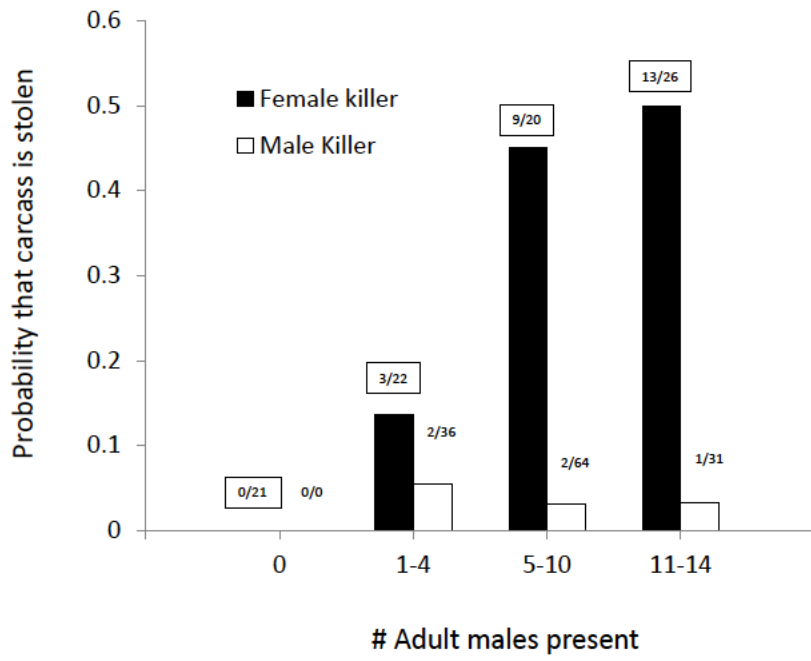
903

904

905

906 Fig. 3

907



908