Intra- and Interspecific Variation in Macague Molar **Enamel Thickness**

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ABSTRACT Enamel thickness has played an important role in studies of primate taxonomy, phylogeny, and functional morphology, although its variation among hominins is poorly understood. Macaques parallel hominins in their widespread geographic distribution, relative range of body sizes, and radiation during the last five million years. To explore enamel thickness variation, we quantified average and relative enamel thickness (AET and RET) in Macaca arctoides, Macaca fascicularis, Macaca fuscata, Macaca mulatta, Macaca nemestrina, and Macaca sylvanus. Enamel area, dentine area, and enamel-dentine junction length were measured from mesial sections of 386 molars scanned with micro-computed tomography, yielding AET and RET indices. Intraspecific sex differences were not found in AET or RET. Macaca fuscata had the highest AET and RET, M. fascicularis showed the lowest AET, and M. arctoides

Primate enamel thickness, assessed in numerous studies of fossil hominins and hominoids, is reported to provide phylogenetic, taxonomic, and functional information (reviewed in Smith et al., 2003, 2006; Olejniczak et al., 2008a; Alba et al., 2010; Benazzi et al., 2011; Smith et al., 2012a). However, considerable variation in enamel thickness is increasingly evident within genera (Dumont, 1995; Beynon et al., 1998; Mackiewicz et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2011, 2012a,b). Temporal and geographic variation in enamel thickness has been documented in comparisons between fossil and living orangutans (Smith et al., 2011), as well as among members of the Miocene hominoid genus Proconsul (Andrews and Martin, 1991; Beynon et al., 1998), and fossil cave bear species (Mackiewicz et al., 2010). This variation is particularly apparent among species of Homo, which range from the intermediate thickness of Neanderthals to the extremely thick enamel of some early Homo fossils from eastern and southern Africa (Schwartz, 1997; Olejniczak et al., 2008b; Smith et al., 2012a).

Recent work has reinvigorated functional explanations for primate enamel thickness variation (Vogel et al., 2008; Constantino et al., 2009; Rabenold and Pearson, 2011; McGraw et al., 2012; Mahoney, 2013; Pampush et al., 2013). A number of studies posit a relationship had the lowest RET. The latitudinal distribution of macaque species was associated with AET for these six species. Temperate macaques had thicker molar enamel than did tropical macaques, suggesting that thick enamel may be adaptive in seasonal environments. Additional research is needed to determine if thick enamel in temperate macaques is a response to intensified hardobject feeding, increased abrasion, and/or a broader diet with a greater range of food material properties. The extreme ecological flexibility of macaques may prohibit identification of consistent trends between specific diets and enamel thickness conditions. Such complications of interpretation of ecological variability, dietary diversity, and enamel thickness may similarly apply for fossil Homo species. Am J Phys Anthropol 155:447–459, © 2014 Wiley Periodicals, Inc. 2014.

between enamel thickness and the mechanics of tooth wear or fracturing, while others assess the relationship between enamel thickness and diet (preferred and/or fallback foods) (reviewed in Smith et al., 2012b). Information on the material properties of hominoid dietary items has also guided functional hypotheses (Lucas et al., 1994; Vogel et al., 2008; Constantino et al., 2009),

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		Max Latitude	1		
	Fooden	IUCN	Mean used	Female mass (kg)	Male mass (kg)
M. fuscata	42	41.5	41.75	8.0	11.0
M. mulatta	41	36.0	38.50	5.4	7.7
M. sylvanus	37	36.5	36.75	9.6	14.5
M. arctoides	27	29.0	28.00	8.4	12.2
M. nemestrina ^a	27	29.0	28.00	4.9 - 6.5	7.7 - 11.2
M. fascicularis	22	21.5	21.75	3.6	5.4

TABLE 1. Species in order of decreasing mean latitude of northernmost distributions

Maximum latitude derived from IUCN distribution maps (http://www.iucnredlist.org) and physical collections of specimens (Fooden, 1975, 1980, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2007). Body mass data are from Smith and Jungers (1997) and Isler et al. (2008).

^a Macaca nemestrina maxium latitude derived from the recently recognized species Macaca leonina (Ziegler et al., 2007), body mass ranges include both M. nemestrina and M. leonina.

although much less is known about the material properties of the diets of other primates. Three main hypotheses have been proposed to explain primate enamel thickness variation: (1) thick enamel is advantageous for resisting fracture due to high bite forces generated during the mastication of hard foods (e.g., Kay, 1981; Dumont, 1995; Lambert et al., 2004; Vogel et al., 2008; Constantino et al., 2011; McGraw et al., 2012, 2014); (2) thick enamel is advantageous for resisting abrasion caused by hard particles in or on food items (e.g., Jolly, 1970; Gantt, 1977; Rabenold and Pearson, 2011; Pampush et al., 2013); and/or (3) thin enamel is advantageous for shearing tough herbivorous food items (e.g., Kay, 1981; Ulhaas et al., 1999; Shimizu, 2002; Vogel et al., 2008). An additional scenario, which is not mutually exclusive from the above predictions, is that thick enamel is an adaption for expanded dietary breadth driven by increased seasonality and colonization of temperate environments (Andrews and Martin, 1991). Primates living in these environments are often required to incorporate more diverse items than ripe fruit or young leaves into their diets than primates in tropical environments (van Schaik et al., 1993; Hemingway and Bynum, 2005; Hanya et al., 2013; Tsuji et al., 2013).

Investigations of primate enamel thickness have yielded equivocal support for the above hypotheses, and several factors hinder direct tests such as the potential confounding effects of phylogenetic nonindependence, the degree of mechanical processing before ingestion, and variation in tooth size. Dumont (1995) compared enamel thickness in congeneric pairs of primates and chiropterans, reporting that relative enamel thickness (RET) values were consistently greater in hard-object feeders than in the respective soft-object feeders. Importantly these values overlapped greatly across taxa, precluding the determination of absolute ranges of enamel thickness values that predict dietary preferences. McGraw et al. (2012) recently challenged Dumont's (1995) characterization of Cercocebus (Lophocebus) albigena as a soft-object frugivore, arguing that all mangabeys process hard objects and have thick enamel. However, thick enamel is not necessary for hard-object feeding, as certain pitheciin primates with thin molar enamel use their anterior dentition for processing hard objects (Martin et al., 2003; also see Constantino et al. 2011 for related data on sea otters). In similarly-sized Bornean and Sumatran orangutans, the species that is presumed to feed on harder objects showed greater average enamel thickness (AET) in females but not in males

(Smith et al., 2012b). In contrast, a recent study of primate enamel thickness that statistically controlled for phylogeny concluded that thick molar enamel may have been selected to resist lifelong abrasion rather than tooth fracture (Pampush et al., 2013).

To contribute further to our understanding of the nature and magnitude of enamel thickness variation among congeneric primates, we examined molar enamel thickness in six macaque species. Our sample includes three temperate species: *Macaca fuscata* (Japanese macaque), *Macaca mulatta* (rhesus macaque), *Macaca sylvanus* (Barbary macaque); and three tropical species: *Macaca arctoides* (stump-tailed macaque), *Macaca fascicularis* (long-tailed macaque) and *Macaca nemestrina* (pig-tailed macaque). These species span an approximately twofold range of body mass values, and show considerable geographic variation (Table 1).

MACAQUE DIETS AND ENAMEL THICKNESS

Dietary studies of M. fascicularis, M. fuscata, and M. sylvanus are more common in the literature than are such studies for M. nemestrina, M. mulatta, and M. arctoides (Suzuki, 1965; Clutton-Brock and Harvey, 1977; Rodman, 1978; Ojha, 1980; Wheatley, 1980; Khan and Wahab, 1983; Goldstein, 1984; Ménard, 1985; Caldecott, 1986a, 1986b; Ménard and Vallet, 1986; Aggimarangsee, 1992; Ungar, 1992; Ahsan, 1994; Agetsuma, 1995; Yeager, 1996; Hill, 1997; Agetsuma and Nakagawa, 1998; Ménard and Qarro, 1999; Hanya, 2003, 2004; Tsuji and Takatsuki, 2004; Tsuji et al., 2006; Richter et al., 2013; Ménard et al., 2014). For M. arctoides we could locate only one short-term survey of provisioned groups near human habitations (Aggimarangsee, 1992). Given the apparent extreme ecological flexibility of certain macaque species, here we restrict our dietary characterizations to studies of unprovisioned, wild populations with one or more years of quantitative data on feeding behavior. On the basis of the most comprehensive studies available (Ménard, 1985; Caldecott, 1986a,b; Yeager, 1996; Hanya, 2004), M. sylvanus consumes the highest proportion of seeds and pods, M. fuscata and M. sylvanus are the most folivorous species, and M. nemestrina and M. fascicularis are the most frugivorous species (Fig. 1).

Currently, deficits in our knowledge of the dietary ecology and mechanical properties of the foods of wildliving macaques handicap direct tests of functional explanations of enamel thickness. Moreover, population-



Fig. 1. Percentage of annual feeding time spent on major food categories. Species are arranged from top to bottom in decreasing mean latitude of their northernmost distribution. "Other fiber rich foods" include scapes, roots, and lichens for *M. sylvanus*; buds, stems, and palm fronds for *M. nemestrina*; bud, root, and pith for *M. fuscata*. Data on *M. fuscata* from Hanya (2004), *M. sylvanus* from Ménard (1985), *M. nemestrina* from Caldecott (1986a,b), and *M. fascicularis* from Yeager (1996). The Yakushima highland population of *M. fuscata* was employed as its environment most closely resembled the Takahama population for which enamel thickness was measured (Agetsuma, 1995; Agetsuma and Nakagawa, 1998; Tsuji et al., 2013).

TABL	E 2. Samp	ole of i	macaq	que tee	eth en	ıploye	ed	
Species	Sex	UM1	UM2	UM3	LM1	LM2	LM3	Total
M. arctoides	Female	3	4	4	5	4	4	24
	Male	4	4	2	4	3	2	19
M. fascicularis	Female	9	9	6	9	8	5	46
,	Male	12	7	4	10	8	4	45
	Unknown	1	1	1	1	1	1	6
M. fuscata	Female	7	8	1	5	8	1	30
,	Male	7	11	7	5	9	7	46
M. mulatta	Female	9	6	1	9	6	2	33
	Male	9	8	3	9	8	3	40
	Unknown	1	0	1	0	0	2	4
M. nemestrina	Female	6	7	4	5	6	4	32
	Male	6	3	1	5	3	1	19
	Unknown	2	3	2	2	3	2	14
M. sylvanus	Female	3	3	3	1	2	3	15
·	Male	2	0	0	2	0	0	4
	Unknown	2	2	1	1	2	1	9

U, maxillary; L, mandibular; M1, first molar; M2, second molar; M3, third molar.

specific feeding data may not reflect general species trends. For example, Pampush et al. (2013) followed others in categorizing M. mulatta as "highly folivorous" based on a field study from an environment modified by human activity in Pakistan (Goldstein and Richard, 1989). However, other studies in Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh suggest a more omnivorous or frugivorous diet for M. mulatta (Lindburg, 1976, 1977; Ojha, 1980; Ahsan, 1994; Sengupta et al., in press), which is in keeping with characteristic cercopithecine dental and digestive anatomy (Chivers and Hladlik, 1980; Lambert, 1998; Swindler, 2002; Fleagle, 2013). Importantly, there are no year-round, quantitative feeding data available for M. mulatta or M. arctoides from undisturbed environments or unprovisioned populations. As such we have omitted these two species from quantitative dietary comparisons.

Gantt (1977) hypothesized that differences in enamel thickness among macaque species would reflect dietary variation or differences in body mass. However, he did not find significant differences among elements of the

posterior dentition (also see Molnar and Gantt, 1977). Subsequent studies of macaques have employed limited samples of worn or physically sectioned teeth (Kay, 1981; Shellis et al., 1998; Shimizu, 2002), or micro-computed tomographic (micro-CT) scans (Olejniczak et al., 2008a; Horvath et al., 2012). Here we employ a more robust sample in order to better explore enamel thickness variation within and among closely-related species, and to consider the extent to which these results are consistent with hypothesized explanations for enamel thickness variation, although definitive understanding awaits information on the mechanical properties of specific foods (e.g., Lambert et al., 2004; Vogel et al., 2008; McGraw et al., 2014). Lastly, if thick enamel is advantageous in environments characterized by greater seasonal variation, temperate species (M. fuscata, M. mulatta, and M. syl*vanus*) should show thicker enamel than more tropical species (M. arctoides, M. fascicularis, and M. nemestrina). These hypotheses, which are not mutually exclusive, are considered below in light of novel data on macaque enamel thickness.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Sample

Enamel thickness was quantified in 386 molars from 109 individuals of six species: *M. arctoides, M. fascicularis, M. fuscata, M. mulatta, M. nemestrina*, and *M. sylvanus* (Table 2). Sex was known for 353 of the 386 molars. Macaque crania were obtained from the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology (Cambridge, MA), American Museum of Natural History (New York, NY), Wake Forest University Primate Center (Winston-Salem, NC), California National Primate Research Center (Davis, CA), Alpha Genesis, Inc. (Yemassee, SC), University of Washington Regional Primate Research Center (Seattle, WA), University at Buffalo (Buffalo, NY), Kyoto University Primate Research Institute (Inuyama, Japan), and Japan Monkey Center (Inuyama, Japan). The majority of individuals were captive; those with signs of severe skeletal or dental pathology were excluded. The *M. nemestrina* sample was broadly defined to include the former subspecies *Macaca nemestrina nemestrina*, *Macaca nemestrina leonina*, and *Macaca nemestrina pagensis*, as a number of crania from museum collections and captive facilities designated as "*Macaca nemestrina*" are of unknown origin (see Ziegler et al., 2007 for a recent revision of this taxon).

Intact dentitions and a few isolated molars were scanned with one of two micro-CT scanners (Harvard University Center for Nanoscale Systems X-Tek HMXST 225 CT, Nikon Corporation X-Tek XT H225 CT) with voxel sizes between 17 and 43 cubic microns, depending on specimen size and whether isolated teeth or complete dentitions were scanned. We employed standard operating conditions (current, energy, and metallic filters) following established protocols (Olejniczak et al., 2007, 2008a,b; Feeney et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2012a,b). Virtual two-dimensional (2D) sections were generated from three-dimensional (3D) models with VG Studio MAX 2.1/ 2.2 software (Volume Graphics GmbH) (Supporting Information Fig. 1). Sectioning protocols have been previously described (Feeney et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2010, 2011, 2012a,b), and are only briefly reviewed here. The 3D coordinates of the dentine and pulp horn tips of the mesial molar cusps were first found and recorded. Molar 2D plane position was calculated as the midpoint between the two pulp chamber horn tips and the two dentine horn tips using rotational vectors (with a dentine horn tip set as the center of rotation). This method was designed to yield a 2D plane perpendicular to the developmental axis of the crown, as is standard practice for physical sectioning.

Enamel thickness quantification and statistical analyses

Following Martin (1983, 1985), several variables were quantified on 2D section planes using a digitizing tablet and SigmaScan Pro software (Systat Software), including the area of the enamel cap (c), the length of the enameldentine junction (e), and the area of the coronal dentine enclosed by the enamel cap (b) (Supporting Information Fig. 1). AET was calculated as [c/e], yielding the average straight-line distance (mm units), or thickness, from the enamel-dentine junction to the outer enamel surface. This index was scaled for interspecific comparisons by calculation of RET: [100 \times [c/e]/sq. rt. b]. When virtual sections demonstrated light to moderate wear, the outer enamel surface and dentine horn tips were manually reconstructed prior to quantification by visually projecting the profiles of unworn teeth (as illustrated in Smith et al., 2012a: Supporting Information Fig. 1). Corrections were also made when small areas of cervical enamel were missing based on the curvature and orientation of the outer enamel surface relative to the enamel-dentine junction. We excluded sections with heavy wear and/or both cervices missing. When both left and right molars were available, the side with the lowest RET was used (following Martin, 1983; Smith et al., 2005).

Previous studies have revealed significant differences in hominoid enamel thickness among tooth positions and between maxillary and mandibular rows (Smith et al., 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012b). Therefore, tooth positions were assessed separately for initial statistical comparisons between species. The Mann–Whitney U test was employed when categories were represented by four or

TABLE 3. Average and relative enamel thickness (AET and RET) values in macaque molars

Tooth	Species	Ν	AET	Range	RET	Range
UM1	M. arctoides	7	0.50	0.41 - 0.56	9.35	7.54 - 11.55
	M. fascicularis	22	0.45	0.39 - 0.51	11.64	10.13-13.20
	M. fuscata	14	0.60	0.49 - 0.65	13.08	10.83 - 14.68
	M. mulatta	19	0.57	0.47 - 0.63	12.16	9.65 - 13.49
	M. nemestrina	14	0.50	0.43 - 0.55	10.84	8.44 - 13.37
	M. sylvanus	7	0.56	0.49 - 0.66	11.42	9.80 - 13.75
UM2	M. arctoides	8	0.61	0.53 - 0.66	10.31	8.50 - 13.27
	M. fascicularis	17	0.53	0.38 - 0.74	11.95	8.86 - 16.21
	M. fuscata	19	0.74	0.64 - 0.80	13.53	11.32 - 15.01
	M. mulatta	14	0.65	0.55 - 0.75	12.28	10.75 - 14.53
	M. nemestrina	13	0.57	0.47 - 0.66	11.22	8.81 - 13.44
	M. sylvanus	5	0.74	0.66 - 0.83	12.86	11.95 - 14.22
UM3	M. arctoides	6	0.66	0.57 - 0.75	12.11	9.99 - 16.28
	M. fascicularis	11	0.55	0.48 - 0.71	13.16	10.77 - 18.27
	M. fuscata	8	0.80	0.68 - 0.89	14.25	11.39 - 16.99
	M. mulatta	5	0.67	0.60 - 0.76	12.55	11.32 - 14.36
	M. nemestrina	7	0.63	0.53 - 0.72	12.86	10.20 - 16.18
	M. sylvanus	4	0.76	0.72 - 0.89	13.21	10.69 - 15.35
LM1	M. arctoides	9	0.48	0.44 - 0.51	10.18	8.89 - 11.87
	M. fascicularis	20	0.44	0.38 - 0.49	12.12	10.69 - 14.45
	M. fuscata	10	0.59	0.55 - 0.64	13.85	12.67 - 15.40
	M. mulatta	18	0.54	0.48 - 0.60	13.16	10.03 - 16.18
	M. nemestrina	12	0.47	0.39 - 0.53	10.61	8.00 - 12.79
	M. sylvanus	4	0.53	0.50 - 0.56	11.51	10.06 - 12.78
LM2	M. arctoides	7	0.57	0.48 - 0.62	9.81	7.62 - 13.06
	M. fascicularis	17	0.52	0.45 - 0.72	12.15	10.80 - 16.49
	M. fuscata	17	0.71	0.61 - 0.80	13.91	12.13 - 15.61
	M. mulatta	14	0.67	0.59 - 0.75	13.10	10.77 - 15.31
	M. nemestrina	12	0.55	0.47 - 0.68	10.73	8.76 - 14.57
	M. sylvanus	4	0.67	0.57 - 0.72	11.93	10.43 - 13.56
LM3	M. arctoides	6	0.63	0.51 - 0.71	11.64	8.77 - 15.46
	M. fascicularis	10	0.56	0.47 - 0.78	14.09	11.65 - 20.96
	M. fuscata	8	0.80	0.72 - 0.88	15.21	13.33 - 17.85
	M. mulatta	$\overline{7}$	0.70	0.61 - 0.78	14.10	11.79 - 16.50
	M. nemestrina	$\overline{7}$	0.62	0.54 - 0.72	12.61	10.56 - 17.02
	M. sylvanus	4	0.73	0.68 - 0.79	12.88	12.60 - 13.39

See Table 2 legend for explanation of tooth positions. AET values are in mm. RET is a dimensionless index.

more teeth to examine differences in enamel thickness indices and components between maxillary and mandibular rows, between sexes, and between macaque species. The Jonckheere–Terpstra test was employed to examine trends in AET from first to third molars; maxillary and mandibular rows were tested separately for each species. This test was also employed to examine the significance of trends in AET and the latitude of each species' northernmost distribution; tests were run for each maxillary and mandibular molar position separately. We used the Jonckheere–Terpstra test because the number of species was not sufficient for regression analyses. Statistical tests were performed with SPSS software (v. 21, IBM Corp.).

RESULTS

Average enamel thickness (AET) and RET values are given in Table 3. Comparisons of maxillary and mandibular molars revealed a number of significant differences in the components of enamel thickness indices (enamel cap area, dentine area, and enamel-dentine junction length) (Table 4). These differences were largely because of greater values in maxillary teeth, except for RET in *M. mulatta* first molars and enamel-dentine junction length in *M. nemestrina* second molars, which showed greater values in mandibular teeth. The Jonckheere– Terpstra test showed a significant increasing trend in

VARIATION IN MACAQUE MOLAR ENAMEL THICKNESS

TABLE 4. Results of Mann-Whitney U tests for comparisons of enamel thickness components and indices between maxillary and
mandibular molars

Tooth	Species	Stat	с	е	AET	b	RET
M1	M. arctoides	Z	-1.641	-2.064	-0.900	-2.699	-1.429
		P value	0.114	0.042	0.408	0.005	0.174
	M. fascicularis	Z	-1.133	-1.335	-0.579	-2.367	-1.410
		P value	0.257	0.182	0.562	0.018	0.158
	M. fuscata	Z	-1.698	-2.049	-1.054	-3.513	-1.464
		P value	0.096	0.042	0.312	0.000	0.154
	M. mulatta	Z	-3.555	-3.950	-2.021	-4.497	-2.340
		P value	0.000	0.000	0.042	0.000	0.019
	M. nemestrina	Z	-1.723	-0.926	-1.672	-1.800	-0.463
		P value	0.085	0.374	0.095	0.076	0.667
	M. sylvanus	Z	-1.701	-0.945	-1.231	-1.701	-0.378
	Ū.	P value	0.109	0.412	0.230	0.109	0.788
M2	M. arctoides	Z	-0.694	-0.694	-1.504	-0.231	-0.810
		P value	0.536	0.536	0.152	0.867	0.463
	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.396	-1.188	-0.603	-1.188	-0.396
	,	P value	0.708	0.245	0.563	0.245	0.708
	M. fuscata	Ζ	-2.171	-1.252	-1.933	-3.216	-1.220
	,	P value	0.030	0.219	0.052	0.001	0.232
	M. mulatta	Ζ	-0.230	-0.551	-0.781	-1.287	-1.562
		P value	0.839	0.603	0.454	0.210	0.125
	M. nemestrina	Ζ	-0.054	-2.176	-0.734	-0.761	-0.761
		P value	0.979	0.030	0.470	0.470	0.470
	M. svlvanus	Ζ	-0.735	-0.245	-0.980	-0.490	-1.225
		P value	0.556	0.905	0.413	0.730	0.286
M3	M. arctoides	Z	-0.160	-0.801	-0.641	-0.160	-0.641
		P value	0.937	0.485	0.589	0.937	0.589
	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.352	-1.197	-0.035	-1.479	-1.127
		P value	0.756	0.251	0.973	0.152	0.282
	M. fuscata	Z	-0.210	-0.315	-0.053	-1.680	-1.050
	111 / 400 404	P value	0.878	0.798	0.959	0.105	0.328
	M. mulatta	Z	-0.244	-1.543	-0.731	-1.705	-1.543
		P value	0.876	0.149	0.530	0.106	0.149
	M. nemestrina	Z	-0.831	-1.086	-0.319	-0.064	-0.064
		P value	0.456	0.318	0.805	1.000	1.000
	M. sylvanus	Z	-0.577	-0.577	-0.581	-0.289	-0.866
		P value	0.686	0.686	0.686	0.886	0 486

c, area of enamel cap; e, enamel-dentine junction length; AET, average enamel thickness; b, area of coronal dentine; RET, relative enamel thickness. Significant differences are in bold.

AET from first to the third molars in both maxillary and mandibular rows of all species (p < 0.01). Therefore tooth row and type were examined separately in analyses of sex and species-level differences. Comparisons of known-sex individuals revealed no significant intraspecific sexual dimorphism in AET or RET values (Table 5). In several instances males showed significantly greater enamel-dentine junction length and dentine area. Given that AET and RET did not significantly differ between sexes, all samples were subsequently combined to assess differences between macaque species.

Both AET and RET differed significantly among species for all tooth positions (Tables 6 and 7), although fewer significant differences were found in comparisons of third molars, which was likely due to insufficient statistical power from limited sample sizes. The most marked differences in AET were found between species that showed the lowest AET (*M. fascicularis* and *M. nemestrina*) and those that showed the highest AET (*M. sylvanus* and *M. fuscata*) (Fig. 2). The Jonckheere–Terpstra test revealed a significant increasing trend in AET with the latitude of northernmost species' distributions for each maxillary and mandibular molar position (p < 0.001) (Fig. 3). Comparisons of RET revealed different interspecific trends than comparisons of AET, due in part to the relatively thin enamel in *M. arctoides* and the relatively thick enamel of *M. fascicularis* (Fig. 4). *Macaca fuscata* showed the relatively thickest enamel of all six species.

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DISCUSSION

Enamel thickness patterns in macaques and other primates

Enamel thickness patterns within the macaque dentition were similar in many ways to hominoid patterns (Smith et al., 2005, 2006, 2008, 2012b). Maxillary molars typically showed greater values for the components of enamel thickness than did mandibular molars. This is reflective of tooth size patterns, as macaque maxillary molars have larger buccal-lingual dimensions than do mandibular molars (Swindler, 2002). Similarly, a significant trend of increasing AET values from first to third molars has now been documented in macaques, great apes, and humans, which is due to increases in enamel cap area and/or reductions in enamel-dentine junction length. Our data do not support the idea that increasing enamel thickness in posterior molars is due to reduction in tooth size (Grine, 2005; Grine et al., 2005), as macaques show increases in both enamel thickness and tooth size from first to third molars. Considerable debate exists about the biomechanical significance of this

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TABLE 5. Results of Mann-Whitney U tests for comparisons of enamel thickness components and indices between sexes

Tooth	Species	Stat	с	е	AET	b	RET
UM1	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.569	-0.569	-0.604	-0.569	-0.213
		P value	0.602	0.602	0.554	0.602	0.862
	M. fuscata	Z	-0.575	-0.575	-1.086	-0.703	-1.597
		P value	0.620	0.620	0.318	0.535	0.128
	M. mulatta	Z	-1.015	-0.486	-0.883	-0.486	-0.177
		P value	0.340	0.666	0.387	0.666	0.863
	M. nemestrina	Z	-0.160	-1.281	-0.641	-0.480	-0.961
		P value	0.937	0.240	0.589	0.699	0.394
UM2	M. arctoides	Z	-0.577	-0.577	-0.577	-1.155	-0.577
		P value	0.686	0.686	0.686	0.343	0.686
	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.688	-1.852	-0.370	-2.382	-1.323
		P value	0.536	0.071	0.758	0.016	0.210
	M. fuscata	Z	-0.413	-1.321	-0.620	-2.477	-1.569
		P value	0.717	0.206	0.545	0.012	0.129
	M. mulatta	Z	-0.387	-0.258	-0.129	-0.904	-0.645
		P value	0.755	0.852	0.950	0.414	0.573
UM3	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.853	-1.492	-0.426	-1.279	-0.426
		P value	0.476	0.171	0.762	0.257	0.762
LM1	M. arctoides	Z	-1.715	-1.715	-0.735	-0.980	-1.470
		P value	0.111	0.111	0.556	0.413	0.190
	M. fascicularis	Z	-1.470	-1.796	-0.858	-1.061	-0.653
		P value	0.156	0.079	0.400	0.315	0.549
	M. fuscata	Z	-0.731	-1.358	-0.313	-1.776	-0.940
		P value	0.548	0.222	0.841	0.095	0.421
	M. mulatta	Z	-0.927	-0.309	-0.795	-0.927	-0.486
		P value	0.387	0.796	0.436	0.387	0.666
	M. nemestrina	Z	-0.522	-0.313	-0.104	-0.104	-0.104
		P value	0.690	0.841	1.000	1.000	1.000
LM2	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.840	-2.100	-0.315	-1.575	-1.155
		P value	0.442	0.038	0.798	0.130	0.279
	M. fuscata	Z	-0.674	-0.192	-0.241	-0.577	-0.962
		P value	0.541	0.888	0.815	0.606	0.370
	M. mulatta	Z	-0.645	-0.904	-0.516	-1.291	-0.129
		P value	0.573	0.414	0.662	0.228	0.950
LM3	M. fascicularis	Z	-0.980	0.000	-1.225	-0.735	-0.490
	•	P value	0.413	1.000	0.286	0.556	0.730

See Table 4 legend for explanation of tooth positions and components. Significant differences are in bold. Statistical tests were not applied for sample sizes less than four (which are not shown).

pattern in primates, which is explored further in Schwartz (2000), Grine (2005), Grine et al. (2005) and Mahoney (2010, 2013).

The lack of significant sex differences in AET or RET within macaque species differed from orangutans and humans, where females showed greater AET and/or RET values than males (Smith et al., 2006; Feeney et al., 2010; Smith et al., 2012b). However, macaque females typically had smaller enamel-dentine junction length and dentine area values, resulting in nonsignificantly greater enamel thickness indices. Given that several macaque species show sex differences in molar tooth size, particularly in buccal-lingual dimensions (Swindler, 2002), an expanded sample may reveal significant sex differences.

The current study represents the largest analysis of molar enamel thickness within a nonhuman primate genus. Gantt (1977) first examined enamel thickness in 43 molar teeth from four macaque species (Macaca cyclopis, M. fascicularis, M. mulatta, and M. nemestrina), concluding that enamel thickness does not significantly differ among macaque species. In contrast, we found numerous significant differences between species, particularly in comparisons of first and second molars (for which sample sizes were the largest). Differences were detected most often between the species with the least

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and greatest AET, M. fascicularis and M. fuscata, respectively, but significant differences were also found between all species pairs for one or more molar positions (save for comparisons of M. arctoides and M. nemestrina). These patterns are explored in relation to frequently-invoked functional hypotheses in the following section.

Gantt (1977) also hypothesized that differences in enamel thickness among macaque species may be expected given differences in body mass. While size may partially explain differences in AET between M. fascicu*laris* and M. *fuscata*, comparisons of AET in the similarly-sized species M. *arctoides* and M. *fuscata* revealed significant differences for each molar position (Table 6). Martin (1983) originally proposed the dimensionless RET index for comparisons among differentsized primates represented by isolated teeth (where body mass was unknown) (Smith et al., 2005). After finding a positive association between molar dentine area and body mass in hominoids, he scaled AET by the square root of dentine area to yield the RET index. Dumont (1995) subsequently examined the relationship between the components of enamel thickness and body mass, and concluded that Martin's RET index "eliminates some, although not all, of the size component inherent in measurements of enamel volume" (p. 1133). Grine (2005)

		9	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1.283	-2.877 **	-0.679	-0.984	-2.462*	
		5	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-0.93	-2.401^{*}	-2.893^{**}	-0.893		-2.268^{*}
	~	4	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-0.365	-2.778^{**}	-2.342^{*}		-1.981	-0.756
	Μŝ	3	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-2.582^{**}	-3.470^{***}		-2.662^{**}	-3.125^{**}	-1.868
ecies		2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-2.715^{**}		-3.288^{***}	-2.783^{**}	-1.854	-2.404*
tween spe		1	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I		-2.061^{*}	-3.098^{***}	-1.571	-0.429	-2.132*
ckness be		6	I	I	I	I	I	I	-2.781^{*}	-3.173^{***}	-1.102	-2.363*	-3.105^{***}		I	I	I	I	I	I
ıamel thi		5	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.413 -	-1.528 -	-4.586*** -	-2.888**	1	-2.304^{*}	I	I	I	I	I	I
werage ei		4	I	I	I	I	I	I	1.775 -	$4.010^{***} -$	$3.844^{***} -$	1	3.600^{***}	0.106 -	I	I	I	I	I	I
isons of c	M2	3	I	I	I	I	I	I	$3.718^{***} -$	$4.866^{***} -$	1	2.144^{*}	$4.340^{***} -$	1.075 -	I	I	I	I	I	I
ır compar		2	I	I	I	I	I	I	2.796** -	Í	4.685^{***}	4.287*** -	1.373 -	2.687** -	I	I	I	I	I	I
U test fo		1	I	I	I	I	I	I		.509*	.653***	$.172^{***} - 4$.803 –1	- 2-	I	I	Ι	I	I	I
- Whitney		6	$.236^{*}$	$.772^{***}$	$.313^{*}$.752	$.537^{*}$		1	- - -	- - -	1	-0	- -	I	I	I	I	I	I
s of Mann		5	.224 -2	$.570^{***} - 3$	$.952^{***} - 2$.844*** -0	-2	.183*		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Ι	I	I	I
6. Result:		4	$804^{**} - 0$	$282^{***} - 3$	$532^{**} - 3$	က 	536***	724 -2	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
TABLE (IMI	3	$059^{***} - 2.$	885*** -5.	-2	518^{**}	$956^{***} - 3.$	336* -0.	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	Ι	I	I	I
		2	269* -3.	-4.	400***	$147^{***} - 2.$	200* -3.	$100^{***} - 2.3$	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
		1	-2.5	159**	$74^{***} - 4.4$	92*** -5.	71 - 2.5	315* -3.	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1
				ris -2.7	-3.6	-3.2	na - 0.0	-2.3		ris			na			ris			na	
			A. arctoides	M. fascicula	M. fuscata	M. mulatta	M. nemestrin	M. sylvanus	M. arctoides	M. fascicula	M. fuscata	M. mulatta	M. nemestrin	M. sylvanus	M. arctoides	M. fascicula	M. fuscata	M. mulatta	M. nemestrin	M. sylvanus
			V IW	V	V	V	V	V	$M2 \Lambda$	V	V	V	V	V	M3 A	V	V	V	V	V

Legend: Species order is the same on both sides of the matrix (i.e., 1 = M. arctoides, 2 = M. fuscicularis, 3 = M. fuscata, 4 = M. mulatta, 5 = M. nemestrina, and 6 = M. sylvanus). Upper right half, maxillary molars; lower left half, mandibular molars. Significance of Z score indicated as *P < 0.05, **P < 0.001.

TABLE 7. Results of Mann-Whitney U test for comparisons of relative enamel thickness between species

			IM						7 7 17						OIM			
	1	2	с,	4	5	9	1	2	3	4	5	9	1	2	3 S	4	5	9
arctoides		-3.415^{***}	-3.506^{***}	-3.498^{***}	-2.014^{*}	-2.492*	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
fascicularis	-3.394^{***}		-3.505^{***}	-1.909	-2.012^{*}	-0.714	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
fuscata	-3.674^{***}	-3.652^{***}		-2.586^{**}	-3.538^{***}	-2.313^{*}	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
mulatta	-3.806^{***}	-2.543^{*}	-1.39		-3.844^{***}	-1.474	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
nemestrina	-0.924	-2.803^{*}	-3.824^{***}	-3.725^{***}		-0.746	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
. sylvanus	-2.006	-0.468	-2.546^{**}	-1.873	-0.97		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
. arctoides	I	I	I	I	I	1		-2.621^{**}	-3.717^{***}	-3.071^{***}	-1.521	-2.489^{*}	I	I	I	I	I	I
. fascicularis	I	I	I	I	I	I	-2.890^{**}		-3.375^{***}	-0.873	-1.109	-1.606	I	I	I	I	I	I
. fuscata	I	I	I	I	I	I	-3.461^{***}	-3.703^{***}		-2.768^{**}	-3.626^{***}	-1.102	I	I	I	I	I	I
mulatta	I	I	I	I	I	I	-3.059^{***}	-2.104^{*}	-1.627		-2.888^{**}	-0.926	I	I	I	I	I	I
. nemestrina	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.014	-2.125^{*}	-3.764^{***}	-3.086^{**}		-1.725	I	I	I	I	I	I
sylvanus	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.89	-0.179	-2.418^{*}	-1.593	-1.334		I	I	I	I	I	I
. arctoides	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1	,	-1.508 -	-1.936 -	0.913 -	0.571 - 1	1.066
fascicularis	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.735	1	-1.404 -	0.736 -	0.589 -(0.131
. fuscata	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-2.324^{*}	-1.777	1	1.903 -	1.157 - (0.679
mulatta	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.857	-0.39 -	-1.273	1	0.893 -(0.735
nemestrina	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-0.714 -	-1.659 -	2.430* -	1.597	Ĩ	0.567
sylvanus	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	-1.066	- 66.0-	2.378* -	0.756 -	0.756	

VARIATION IN MACAQUE MOLAR ENAMEL THICKNESS

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Fig. 2. Average enamel thickness in the molars of six macaque species. Species in order of increasing mean latitude of northernmost distributions. Standard box and whisker plot revealing the interquartile range (25th–75th percentiles: bars), 1.5 interquartile ranges (whiskers), and the median values (black line). Outliers are signified by circles. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at wileyonlinelibrary.com.]

advocated dividing AET by the bicervical width of the tooth, although this index showed nearly identical trends to RET. For the dataset presented here, comparisons of AET between similarly-sized species and comparisons of RET between different-sized species revealed numerous significant differences, indicating that enamel thickness variation among macaque species is not solely due to differences in body mass.

The six macaque species examined in this study show a range of RET values that overlap with "thin" and



Fig. 3. Relationship between first molar average enamel thickness and northernmost latitude. Vertical lines represent 95% confidence intervals and circles represent mean values. Note the two species that fall at 28° latitude are artificially offset by $\pm 0.2^{\circ}$ (as they would otherwise overlap completely). The regression line refers to the original condition (both species at 28°). See Tables 1 and 3 for individual species' values.

"intermediate-thick" hominoids Pan, Gorilla, and Pongo (Martin, 1983; Smith et al., 2005, 2008, 2012b), but are on average distinctively thinner than Homo sapiens and most fossil hominins (Grine and Martin, 1988; Grine, 2005; Smith et al., 2006, 2012a). Cercopithecines are known to show RET values that span all of Martin's (1985)quantitative enamel thickness categories (Dumont, 1995; Ulhaas et al., 1999; Olejniczak et al., 2008b; McGraw et al., 2012; this study). Martin (1983) originally suggested that hominoid molar RET values reflected phylogenetic relationships, which has been called into question by genetic evidence (Ruvolo, 1997) and subsequent studies of enamel thickness (e.g., Smith et al., 2003, 2005, 2008). Whether closely-related macaques show more similar RET values than distantlyrelated species remains an empirical question, although unfortunately the number of species employed here are insufficient for phylogenetic analyses (e.g., Nunn, 2011).

Evolutionarily, *M. sylvanus* is believed to be the first species to diverge within the macaque lineage around



Fig. 4. Relative enamel thickness (RET) in the molars of six macaque species. Species in order of increasing RET values. See Figure 2 for description of graph. [Color figure can be viewed in the online issue, which is available at wileyonlinelibrary.com.]

five million years ago, which was subsequently followed by the divergence of the "silenus group," including *M. nemestrina* (Delson, 1980; Fooden, 1980; Fa, 1989; Tosi et al., 2000, 2003; Ziegler et al., 2007; Li et al., 2009). The relationships of the remaining four species in this study have been variably reconstructed, although *M. mulatta* and *M. fuscata* are generally considered to be the most closely related (Fa, 1989; Li et al., 2009: Fig. 2, p. 245). These evolutionary relationships are not consistently supported by RET patterns (Table 7, Fig. 4). *Macaca arctoides* had the thinnest RET of all six species and is most similar to *M. nemestrina*, which would not be expected given its closer relationship to *M. fascicularis, M. mulatta*, and *M. fuscata* than to *M. nemestrina* and *M. sylvanus. Macaca mulatta* and *M. fuscata* did cluster together (along with *M. fascicularis*), but showed significantly different RET values for maxillary first and second molars. Although our preliminary results are consistent with the lack of phylogenetic signals in hominoid enamel thickness values, the inclusion of additional macaque species would provide further clarification.

Macaque dietary ecology and enamel thickness

Available data on macaque dietary intake and enamel thickness are not consistent with studies that suggest that thick enamel is an adaptation to protect teeth from fracture during feeding on hard objects as either a preferred or fallback food (Dumont, 1995; Lambert et al., 2004; Vogel et al., 2008; Constantino et al., 2009; Harrison and Marshall, 2011; McGraw et al., 2014). Macaca fuscata had the absolutely thickest enamel of our six species, but the wild population that is most ecologically similar to our sample did not consume a high proportion of foods generally characterized as "hard objects"; nuts, seeds, or pods (Agetsuma, 1995; Agetsuma and Nakagawa, 1998; Hanya, 2004; Tsuji et al., 2013). In contrast, Macaca sylvanus, the highest consumer of seeds and pods among species considered here, had significantly lower AET than M. fuscata for maxillary and mandibular first molars (despite being the largest species in this study). Consistent with the macaques, AET trends in orangutan species do not fully conform to ecological predictions (Smith et al., 2012b). Although Bornean orangutans are believed to consume more mechanically demanding foods than Sumatran orangutans, only comparisons between females revealed significant differences in AET. However, an important caveat is that data on food material properties are needed in order to directly test the hypothesized relationship between thick enamel and hard-object feeding (e.g., Lambert et al., 2004; Vogel et al., 2008; McGraw et al., 2014). For example, Vogel et al. (2008) demonstrated that the material properties of foods consumed by chimpanzees and orangutans differed as expected based on enamel thickness; thicker-enameled orangutans consumed tougher and harder foods than thinner-enameled chimpanzees.

Others have suggested that thick enamel may be an adaptive response to resist tissue loss due to abrasion (e.g., Jolly, 1970; Rabenold and Pearson, 2011; Pampush et al., 2013). Pampush et al. (2013) recently suggested that primate enamel thickness may reflect both phytolith load and the "functional life of a tooth." However if both longevity and diet are driving enamel thickness, then the increasing pattern of AET from first to third molars is counterintuitive. First molars erupt several years before third molars (Smith et al., 1994), and are subjected to the greatest amount of attrition within the molar row. If abrasion resistance is the primary selective agent driving the evolution of thick enamel, first molars should show the absolutely thickest enamel of the molar row rather than third molars. Irrespective of this, direct assessment of the hypothesized relationship between enamel thickness and abrasion requires knowledge of dietary phytolith load and exogenous grit. Published reports on macaque diets are unsuitable for phytolith load assessment as they rarely specify the genus and species of particular food items, nor the part of the plant



Fig. 5. Percentage of annual feeding time spent on major food categories in three populations of unprovisioned *Macaca fuscata*. Kinkazan Island data from Agetsuma and Nakagawa (1998) (minus September), Yakushima highland data from Hanya (2004), and Yakushima lowland data from Agetsuma and Nakagawa (1998) (minus January and July).

consumed, or the proportion of the total diet a specific item represents. Moreover, information on phytolith load is often only available at the family level, which can be highly variable (Piperno, 1988, 2006), and may bias the quantification of overall phytolith load.

Finally, the results of this study are not consistent with the hypothesis that thin enamel is indicative of a folivorous diet (contra Kay, 1985; Vogel et al., 2008), as the two species with the absolutely thinnest enamel, M. nemestrina and M. fascicularis, were characterized by the lowest degree of folivory. Macaca fuscata and *M. sylvanus*, two species with a higher degree of folivory, showed greater AET than M. nemestrina and M. fascicu*laris. Macaca mulatta* has previously been characterized as highly folivorous (Goldstein and Richard, 1989), but this assessment is based on feeding data from an area that has been highly disturbed by humans. While we acknowledge that considerable variation in diet composition may exist among wild, unprovisioned populations within a species (Fig. 5), our data underscore the need for future studies of enamel thickness, feeding behavior, food mechanics, and phytolith load of dietary items within populations to conclusively determine the adaptive significance of primate enamel thickness.

Enamel thickness and geographic distribution

Enamel thickness in the six species included in this study showed a significant increasing trend between AET and geographic distribution. The species with the lowest AET (M. fascicularis) has the southernmost distribution, while the species with greatest AET (*M. fuscata*) has the northernmost distribution (Fig. 3). Moreover, the three species found in more temperate or seasonal environments (M. fuscata, M. sylvanus, and M. *mulatta*) have thicker enamel than the remaining three tropical species. This may be due to the greater breadth of dietary items consumed in temperate environments (Supporting Information Fig. 2), and/or the reliance on mechanically demanding foods during particular seasons (Andrews and Martin, 1991; van Schaik et al., 1993; Hemingway and Bynum, 2005; Tsuji et al., 2013). In a recent comparison of Asian temperate and tropical forests, Hanya et al. (2013) reported that temperate environments have more predictable fruiting and flushing

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peaks than tropical environments, but flushing periods were relatively short, necessitating dependence on "lowquality foods" (mature leaves, buds, bark, and/or lichens) during other times of the year.

Temperate climate macaques such as *M. fuscata* show considerable seasonal variation, feeding on fruit and seeds during the spring, summer and fall, and mature leaves, buds and bark during the winter (Hanya, 2004). Macaca fuscata has also been reported to dig up underground plant parts during the winter and early spring (Iguchi and Izawa, 1990). Macaca sylvanus resides in temperate areas with comparatively few fleshy fruits, such as the evergreen and deciduous oak mountain ranges of Algeria and the cedar forests of Morocco. where structures such as acorns and cones protect seeds (Ménard and Vallet, 1986), and seasonal diet shifts are pronounced (Ménard et al., 2014). However, Fa (1984) suggested that the current North African habitat of *M. sylvanus* may not be reflective of preferred or historic habitats, which may be a reason that M. sylvanus does not show thicker molar enamel given its current reliance on seeds and pods. In contrast, macaques in tropical rainforest habitats (Thailand, Malaysia, Sumatra, Java, Borneo) such as *M. nemestrina* and *M. fascicularis* may consume fruit year-round. For example, a M. fascicularis troop in eastern Borneo was reported to feed almost exclusively on fruit (87%) throughout 18 months of investigation (Wheatley, 1980).

Macaques are characterized by a remarkable degree of adaptability among primates, as evidenced by their widespread geographic variation and diverse habitat use, eclipsed only by that of living and fossil Homo. Identification of species-typical macaque diets has been complicated by extensive environmental variation, as well as anthropogenic influences on geography and ecology (e.g., Fooden, 1971; Rodman, 1978; Aldrich-Blake, 1980; Fooden, 1982; Goldstein, 1984; Caldecott, 1986a,b; Richard et al., 1989; Chapman and Chapman, 1990; Fooden, 1990; Ménard, 2004; Hanya et al., 2011; Ménard et al., 2014). Certain macaques have been characterized as "weed species" that prefer to live near human habitations or in disturbed environments (Richard et al., 1989). We note that while the positive trend in AET and latitude appears to be robust in the macaques included in this study, additional investigation is needed to

determine if a similar trend exists in other primate taxa. For example, differences in enamel thickness were not detected in most comparisons of fossil orangutans from mainland Asia versus those from Indonesia (Smith et al., 2011). Similarly, Neanderthals inhabited some of the most extreme northern-most environments among fossil hominins, yet show the thinnest enamel of all fossil *Homo* species (Smith et al., 2012a).

SUMMARY

Although reported dietary intake may be an imperfect solution for testing functional explanations of enamel thickness, especially in the absence of comprehensive information on the mechanical properties of ingested foods, such approaches are common in the literature (e.g., Kay, 1981; Andrews and Martin, 1991; Dumont, 1995; Constantino et al., 2009; McGraw et al., 2012). We evaluated AET and RET among six Macaca species in conjunction with information available on diet to explore the extent to which they were consistent with established functional hypotheses. Enamel thickness across the genus Macaca did not vary as would be expected if abrasive tissue loss, degree of folivory, or inferences of hard-object feeding of preferred or fallback foods served as strong selective pressures. These preliminary findings remain speculative and do not allow us to reject or support any functional hypotheses. This is because an integral component of their evaluation necessarily requires a better understanding of mechanical properties of macaque diets. Importantly, enamel thickness was strongly associated with geographic distribution; macaque species in temperate environments had thicker enamel than did macaque species with tropical distributions. Taken together these findings suggest that aspects of diet across seasons in temperate regions are likely associated with functional properties of tooth enamel in as yet unknown ways. Geographic distribution may serve as a useful proxy of such phenomena not currently captured by the paucity of systematic dietary information in the literature. Until more robust data are available to test such hypotheses further, extrapolations from enamel thickness values are unlikely to provide direct or precise information of dietary preferences in genera that exhibit marked ecological flexibility such as Macaca or Homo.

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