

Macaque Personality Inventory for captive individuals (MPlc-BV) – English

The MPlc’s background, development and properties are published in:

Uher, J., Werner, C. S. & Gosselt, K. (2013). From observations of individual behaviour to social representations of personality: Developmental pathways, attribution biases, and limitations of questionnaire methods. *Journal of Research in Personality*, 47, 647–667. [\[download\]](#) [DOI: 10.1016/j.jrp.2013.03.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrp.2013.03.006)

Research design and assessment procedure

In primate research, raters often repeatedly assess different individuals on the same items. Therefore, it is helpful to insert the name of the target individual into the wording of each statement to help the raters focus on the particular individual that they are assessing (e.g., using a computer programme).

All items in the behaviour-descriptive verb format (BV) and the trait-adjective format (TA) can be presented together; you may also use the items of just one of the two MPlc formats. Importantly, the items should be presented in a randomised order with regard to the constructs that they indicate. Presenting items in chunks of five items is useful to avoid cross-checking between responses to items of related content. To avoid effects of familiarisation with the inventories on the assessments of single macaques, the order in which each rater judges his or her particular set of monkey individuals should be randomised.

General instructions for raters

Ideally, each macaque should be assessed by 2-3 people who know the individual very well. It is important that you assess the macaques as they are currently behaving, even though their behaviour may have changed in comparison with previous months or years. Please read every statement carefully and think about how well it applies to the particular macaque monkey in comparison with other macaques.

For your answers, you can use five response categories.

almost never	when the behaviour is	never or hardly ever shown
rarely		rather not shown
sometimes		shown every now and then
often		frequently shown
very often		very frequently shown

Please try to use the full range of all five categories for your answers and to use the outer categories as well.

Example:

Macaco is in close proximity to other group members.

almost never

rarely

sometimes

often

very often

There are no right or wrong answers. If a statement is difficult to judge for a particular individual, **please select the answer that you think is most appropriate. Please fill in all inventories on your own**, and do not discuss your assessments with the other raters so that everyone can provide his or her own personal assessments.

Behaviour-descriptive verb Items (MPIc-BV)		Inter-rater reliability ^b				Temporal reliability ^c
		ICC(3,k)		ICC(3,1)		r_{tt}
Item code ^a	Complete item statement	t ₁	t ₂	t ₁	t ₂	t ₁ -t ₂
AGMNB1	<i>Name</i> threatens and/or chases his/her group members.	.79	.60	.48	.27	.74
AGMNB2	<i>Name</i> hits and/or bites his/her group members.	.71	.62	.38	.29	.61
ARMNB1	In uncertain situations, <i>Name</i> scratches, yawns and/or quickly grooms him-/herself.	.56	.29	.24	.09	.21
AXMNB1	In conflict situations, <i>Name</i> screams quickly, urinates and also has diarrhea at times.	.71	.35	.38	.12	.58
AXMNB2	<i>Name</i> does not give up easily in a conflict and fights back rather than trying to end it as quickly as possible.	.82	.81	.53	.51	.87
COMNB1	<i>Name</i> tries to take food or social partners from others.	.81	.52	.52	.21	.57
CUMNB1	<i>Name</i> closely inspects new objects for a long time and/or touches them often.	.85	.83	.59	.55	.83
CUMNB2 *	<i>Name</i> ignores new objects that are offered in the group (enrichment).	.78	.79	.47	.49	.74
DIMNB1	<i>Name</i> can be easily interrupted when engaged in his/her activities.	.63	.53	.30	.22	.59
DOMNB1	In the enclosure, <i>Name</i> occupies the best place for him-/herself.	.82	.80	.54	.50	.82
DOMNB2 *	<i>Name</i> makes way for others and is also quick to show bared teeth to others.	.83	.85	.54	.59	.88
FRMNB1	<i>Name</i> approaches his/her group members, touches and also grooms them.	.64	.75	.31	.43	.71
FRMNB2	<i>Name</i> engages in bodily contact with his/her group members.	.74	.71	.42	.38	.77
GRMNB1 *	<i>Name</i> spends a lot of time alone.	.77	.80	.46	.51	.72
GRMNB2	<i>Name</i> sits next to his/her group members.	.74	.69	.41	.36	.77
IMMNB1	When he/she does not like something, <i>Name</i> shakes trees or jumps on or slaps others.	.88	.78	.65	.47	.75
PAMNB1	In the enclosure, <i>Name</i> walks or climbs/brachiates a lot.	.90	.89	.68	.68	.90
PAMNB2 *	During the day, <i>Name</i> sits or lies around a lot (hangs out).	.86	.89	.60	.68	.87
PEMNB1	<i>Name</i> can occupy him-/herself with something for a long time.	.39	.42	.14	.15	.01
PLMNB1	<i>Name</i> plays alone, also with objects.	.77	.81	.46	.51	.84
PLMNB2	<i>Name</i> plays with his/her group members.	.92	.92	.73	.74	.88
SCMNB1	<i>Name</i> cleans his/her skin, fur and also wounds.	.42	.36	.15	.12	.20
SXMNB1	<i>Name</i> tries to contact others sexually.	.78	.72	.46	.39	.70
SCMNB1	<i>Name</i> stimulates him-/herself sexually.	.82	.75	.53	.43	.80
TPMNB1 *	<i>Name</i> tries to avoid getting involved in others' conflicts (e.g., by moving somewhere else, ignoring support requests or looking away from the conflict).	.68	.74	.35	.42	.71

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		t ₁	t ₂	t ₁	t ₂	t ₁ -t ₂
TPMNB2	Name supports other individuals who are involved in a conflict.	.75	.66	.43	.33	.67
TPMNB3	Name tries to settle disputes between third parties (e.g., by mounting or grooming one of the parties involved).	.08	.46	.02	.17	.65
VIMNB1	Name is quick to spot (even small) changes in the enclosure.	.67	.81	.34	.51	.73
YOMNB1	Name takes care of youngsters by grooming or snuggling them (embracing).	.49	.55	.19	.23	.65
YOMNB2	Name plays with youngsters.	.91	.91	.72	.72	.89

* Item meanings are reverse keyed

^a Item code abbreviations see below

^b Inter-rater reliabilities of $k = 4$ raters, separately for the first two (out of six) study waves; based on $N = 97$ monkeys

^c Test-retest reliability over 3-4 weeks reported for study year 1; based on $N = 45$ monkeys. These reliability scores refer to the ratings of each two experts and two novices per monkey. For information on the different rater groups and their reliability scores of all study waves and study years, see publication.

Abbreviations item code

First two digits construct (see below)

Second two digits species (MC = macaque)

Last two digits item format B1 to B3 = behaviour-descriptive verb items

“Personality” constructs:

AG Aggressiveness (to conspecifics)

AR Arousability

AX Anxiousness

CO Competitiveness

CU Curiousness

DI Distractibility

DO Dominance

FR Friendliness (to conspecifics)

GR Gregariousness

IM Impulsiveness

PA Physical activity

PE Persistency

PL Playfulness

SC (Self-)Cleanliness

SX Sexual activity

TP Third-party intervention

VI Vigilance

YO Friendliness to youngsters

Please note that food-related items (construct *Food orientation*) are not contained because, in our study, the monkeys were fed outside observation hours. Pertinent items may be adapted from the CPI for capuchin monkeys or the GAPI for great apes.

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