Macaque Personality Inventory for captive individuals (MPIc-TA) – English

The MPIc'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

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 MPIc 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		never or hardly ever shown
rarely	when the behaviour is	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.

Trait-Adjective Items (MPIc-TA)		Inter-rater reliability [b]				Temporal reliability
Item code [a]	**Complete item statement**	*ICC(3,k)*		*ICC(3,1)*		r_{tt} [c]
		t_1	t_2	t_1	t_2	t_1-t_2
AGMCAD	To his/her group members, *Name* is aggressive.	.67	.56	.33	.24	.72
ARMCAD	*Name* is quickly aroused.	.61	.69	.28	.36	.58
AXMCAD	*Name* is anxious.	.81	.83	.52	.54	.88
COMCAD	*Name* is competitive.	.75	.69	.43	.36	.78
CUMCAD	*Name* is curious.	.80	.89	.50	.67	.81
DIMCAD	*Name* is easily distractible.	.67	.62	.33	.29	.71
DOMCAD	*Name* is dominant.	.88	.87	.64	.62	.88
FRMCAD	*Name* is friendly to his/her group members.	.35	.28	.12	.09	.42
GRMCAD	*Name* is gregarious.	.49	.62	.19	.29	.82
IMMCAD	*Name* is impulsive.	.80	.85	.51	.59	.79
PAMCAD	*Name* is physically active.	.87	.91	.62	.73	.92
PEMCAD	*Name* is persistent.	.68	.75	.35	.43	.66
PLMCAD	*Name* is playful.	.94	.94	.80	.80	.92
SCMCAD	*Name* is cleanly with him/herself.	.24	.31	.07	.10	.04
SXMCAD	*Name* is sexually active.	.76	.76	.45	.45	.63
TPMCAD	In others' conflicts, *Name* is intervening.	.81	.73	.52	.41	.85
VIMCAD	*Name* is vigilant.	.64	.80	.30	.51	.67
YOMCAD	*Name* is friendly to the youngsters of the group.	.34	.62	.12	.29	.52

[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 of item codes

First two digits   construct (see below)
Second two digits   species (MC = macaque)
Last two digits   item format   AD = trait-adjective items

"Personality" constructs:

AG Aggressiveness (to conspecifics)   IM Impulsiveness
AR Arousability   PA Physical activity
AX Anxiousness   PE Persistency
CO Competitiveness   PL Playfulness
CU Curiousness   SC (Self-)Cleanliness
DI Distractibility   SX Sexual activity
DO Dominance   TP Third-party intervention
FR Friendliness (to conspecifics)   VI Vigilance
GR Gregariousness   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.

Dr Jana Uher   www.primate-personality.net