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JOURNAL ARTICLE

Collection and analysis of semen from the common marmoset (*Callithrix jacchus*)

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The authors examined the seminal characteristics of 16 male common marmosets (*Callithrix jacchus*) to provide baseline data for future studies of the reproductive biology of this species. Semen samples were collected by electroejaculation. There was considerable inter- and intra-male variation in all seminal characteristics. The median seminal volume was 30 microliters (range 8 to 85 microliters), and the median total sperm count was 5.1×10^6 sperm (range, 0.1 to 43×10^6). The median progressive sperm motility was 48% (range, 10% to 76%), and 49% of the sperm exhibited normal morphology (range, 24% to 81%). Three types of sperm head abnormalities and eight types of tail defects were noted. Tail defects were common (median, 50%; range, 17% to 76%), whereas head defects were relatively rare (median, 4.5%; range, 0% to 24%). The results indicate that semen samples can be routinely collected from this species, but considerable inter- and intra-male variation can be expected. It is therefore important to examine several semen samples from each male marmoset to obtain an accurate seminal picture.

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