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Acoustic communication in *Panthera tigris*: A study of tiger vocalization and auditory receptivity revisited

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Preliminary findings reported at the 145th meeting of the Society suggested that confrontational tiger roars contain energy in the infrasonic portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. This discovery generally supported the proposition that free ranging individuals may take advantage of this capability to communicate with widely dispersed conspecifics inhabiting large territories in the wild. Preliminary ABR findings indirectly supported this view suggesting that although tigers are most sensitive to acoustic events containing energy in the 0.3 to 0.5 kHz band, they are most likely able to detect acoustic events in the near-infrasonic and infrasonic range based on the assumption that felid audiograms exhibit uniform shapes. In this study, the spectral content of territorial and confrontational roars was analyzed and relevant features of ABR based threshold-frequency curves were considered in relation to the acoustical properties of both roar types. Unlike the confrontational roar, infrasonic energy was not detected in the territorial roar; however, like the confrontational roar, peak acoustic power was detected in a frequency band centered on ~ 0.3 kHz. In addition, ABR recordings acquired in a double walled sound attenuating chamber recently installed at the Henry Doorly Zoo suggest that acoustic sensitivity is significantly underestimated under "field" conditions.