

Facial dysplasia in wild forest olive baboons (Papio anubis) in Sebitoli, Kibale National Park, Uganda: Use of camera traps to detect health defects

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1	Facial dysplasia in wild forest olive baboons (Papio anubis) in Sebitoli,
2	Kibale National Park, Uganda: use of camera-traps to detect health defects
3	
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- **31** *#* tables: 4
- **32** *#* figures: 1
- 33
- 34 Abstract
- 35

Background: Primate populations are in decline, mainly affected by agriculture leading to
habitat loss, fragmentation but also chemical pollution. Kibale National Park (Uganda), Sebitoli
forest, surrounded by tea and crop fields, is the home range of chimpanzees presenting
congenital facial dysplasia. This study aimed to identify to what extent the same phenotypical
features are observed in baboons (*Papio anubis*) of this area.
Methods: A total of 25,390 clips recorded by 14 camera traps between January 2017 and April

- 42 2018 were analyzed.
- **Results:** We identified 30 immature and adult baboons of both sexes with nose and lipdeformities. They were more frequently observed in the North-Western part of the area.
- 45 **Conclusions:** A possible effect of pesticides used in crops at the border of their habitat is 46 suspected to alter the embryonic development. This study emphasizes the importance of non-47 invasive methods to detect health problems in wild primates that can act as sentinels for human 48 health.

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50 Key words: malformation, primate, camera-trap, endocrine disruptor, anthropogenic pressure

51 Introduction

52

Most primate species are threatened with extinction or declining populations resulting from 53 escalating and unsustainable human activities¹. These activities lead to anthropogenic 54 environmental modifications that could affect wild primates by cascading effects. Non-human 55 primates can act as sentinels of environmental toxics caused by anthropogenic activities. 56 However, exposure to pollution is rarely measured and cases of intoxication rarely reported. 57 Accumulation of heavy metals and levels of lead were measured in different locations and 58 species such as howler monkeys (*Alouatta pigra*)², in urban free-ranging rhesus monkey 59 (*Macaca mulatta*)³ and in long-tailed monkeys (*Macaca fascicularis*)⁴. Levels of serum dioxin 60 were measured on douc langurs (Pygathrix nigripes)^{5,6} in Vietnam to understand the 61 consequences of the use of Agent Orange during the war. However, no consequence on the 62 health was observed associated to the levels of lead and dioxin in these studies. 63

The leading causes of primate extinction i.e. habitat loss¹ are mainly due to the conversion of natural forests into agricultural systems. Environmental pollution due to conventional agricultural practices and use of pesticides could directly threaten the health of the surrounding wildlife⁷. Yet few surveys have been conducted to show evidence of exposure to pollutants on animal health due to close proximity to agricultural areas (birds studies⁸⁻¹⁰ but no primates).

The direct or indirect observation of primates is a way to assess their health by looking at 69 potential wounds or malformations. Most primates' deformities described in literature are the 70 result of falls, fights, or wounding by predators¹¹; and some are the collateral consequences of 71 being caught in snares set by poachers¹². However, in Sebitoli area in the northern part of Kibale 72 National Park, Uganda, it has been suggested that the malformations observed have different 73 causes. Indeed, exposition to chemicals used on crops, arboricides such as Agent Orange and 74 pollution from combustion exhaust gases from vehicles could be the cause of the high number 75 of congenital malformations observed in the primates including 16 chimpanzees and six 76 baboons (*Papio anubis*)¹²⁻¹⁵. While chimpanzees are monitored daily in this area, baboons are 77 opportunistically seen and Krief et al.¹⁵ described facial deformities in six baboons captured in 78 79 a one minute video by a single camera trap.

The objective of this survey was to expand spatially and temporally the camera trap network to confirm, better describe the lesions in baboons and evaluate the number, age and sex class of

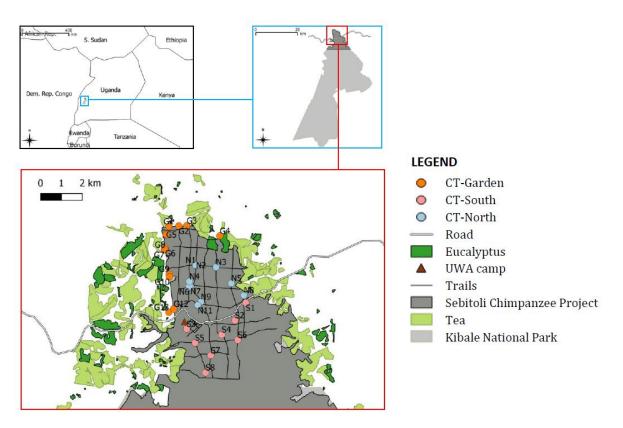
- 82 affected individuals sharing the habitat with Sebitoli chimpanzees.
- 83

- 84 Material and methods
- 85

The study site was the Sebitoli area located at the extreme North part of the Kibale National 86 Park, Western Uganda (795 km², 0°13'-0°41'N and 30°19'-30°32'E¹⁶). The chimpanzees, and 87 more generally wildlife have been monitored since 2009 by the Sebitoli Chimpanzee Project. 88 This Park is composed of a mid-altitude forest with high plant and animal diversity¹⁷. The 89 Sebitoli area is surrounded by human activity, and in particular, agriculture comprising in the 90 91 western fringes, small farms with food crops, tea and eucalyptus, and to the East, tea estates and eucalyptus plantations. Phytochemical use differs according to the crops and thus to the 92 area¹⁵. In order to understand if the location and the crop type in contact with the territory of a 93 group of baboons could influence the number of affected individuals, we divided the Sebitoli 94 area into four zones delimited by the tarmac road crossing the chimpanzee home range (20 km²) 95 in the south¹⁸ and two survey transects that divided the region into equivalent areas in west, 96 east, north and south (Figure 1). We assumed that East and West are differently affected by 97 pesticides and that the road play a "natural" limits between groups of North and South. We 98 counted the malformed individuals encountered in the video clips recorded by the cameras 99 localized in each of the four zones to understand if malformed individuals frequent more often 100 one of the four zones. 101

From January 2017 to April 2018, up to 14 camera traps (CT) equivalent to 4746 CT days were 102 set in the forest (named hereafter "forest-CT") and in the border of cultivated fields of maize 103 (named hereafter "garden-CT") that surround the Park (Figure 1). The locations are recorded 104 with a GPS Garmin 64CS and projected on a map¹⁹. The recorded clips are collected every two 105 weeks. We used 13 HD video-traps Reconyx XR-6 Ultrafire[™] and 2 HD video-traps Bushnell 106 Trophy Cam HD MaxTM with a day/night auto sensor and sound recordings. The settings were: 107 high definition video of 1280 × 720 pixels, video length of 30 s for Reconyx[™] and 60 s for 108 BushnellTM. Video recording started when motion was sensed at a distance of up to 21 m for 109 ReconyxTM and 18 m for BushnellTM; there is a 5 s delay between consecutive triggers. Camera 110 traps were set at least 1 m above the ground and at least 1 m off the trail or on an animal track 111 where we expected the animals to pass. Three CT were set and active at the same location 112 during the entire duration of this study. Other CT were moved in the forest according to (1) 113 presence of mature crops at the edge of the forest in order to record crop feeding events by 114 chimpanzees, baboons and elephants or (2) presence of bees nests visited by chimpanzees in 115 order to obtain footage of tools used for honey harvesting by chimpanzees (3) different events 116

- such as stealing and breaking of CT by animals or poachers resulting of some CT being not
- 118 active during some periods.
- 119



120

Figure 1. Map of the camera-trap study in the Sebitoli Chimpanzee Project, Kibale National Park in Uganda.
We placed 13 camera-traps in the garden (CT-Garden), 19 camera-traps in the forest: 11 in the Northern part (CTNorth) and 8 in the Southern part (CT-South) of the road that cross the area. The forest is surrounded by eucalyptus
and tea plantations.

125

For each clip we identified the animal species observed, the number of individuals of each 126 species seen, their activities and the health impairments observed. When successive clips started 127 less than 5 minutes apart with the same species being present, we considered them not to be 128 independent and thus animals were considered to be part of the same group. If it was more than 129 5 min and less than 10 minutes between the clips and we could identify again clearly an 130 individual previously identified (known or because of some features) we also considered those 131 132 clips as non-independent. For those non-independent clips, we counted the number of individuals that appear for the first time in the given clip and were not seen in the previous clip. 133 By adding the number of individuals that appeared to be different, we could estimate the size 134 of the group. We calculated the relative abundance of the presence of baboons by dividing the 135 number of individuals seen (could be the same individuals over the month) by 100 CT days. 136

137 The CT days are the days for which the camera was fully operational and could register. It 138 excludes events of CT's stealing and memory card full in few days because of vegetation 139 movement in front of the High Sensitivity Image sensor.

We tried as far as possible to determine the sex and the class of age (adapted from Packer²⁰; 140 Rose²¹) for the olive baboons: infant (0 to 1 year, carried by mother), juvenile (1 to 4 years, 141 small and not carried by mother) and mature (i.e., sexually mature individual including adult 142 143 and sub-adult more than 4 years). The class of age of an individual reported corresponds to its 144 first observation during the study period. Sex determination of juveniles and infants from camera trap videos was often difficult; therefore, this age category is generally classed as 145 unknown sex. When individuals looked very similar and cannot be morphologically 146 differentiated, we assumed that they were the same individual seen on different occasions. We 147 defined mother-infant pair when an infant has been seen carried by its mother. 148

For individuals with physical features related to health impairment, we extracted a screen shot
from the video-clip and described them as precisely as possible. We classified the abnormalities
related to fur color (depigmentation), malformation or wound (presence of blood, pus or scab).

We specified the body part affected: the head, the limbs, the trunk, the tail or the genitals. For facial malformations, parts of the face affected are mentioned as followed: nasal bone, nostrils, lip, ectopic apertures on the nasal bone and others features.

The baboons were observed without resorting to invasive methods and without interaction with the researchers. We adhered to the research protocols defined by the guidelines of the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), which were also approved by the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (Memorandum of Understanding MNHN/UWA/Makerere University SJ 445-12).

159

160 **Results**

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Out of 34 species identified, olive baboons were observed on 3,238 clips out of 25,390 clips recorded in 4,746 days by 14 cameras over an area covering about 20 km². We saw 4,906 baboons over 2,204 clips in the forest-CT clips (abundance relative per 100 CT-days = 118.8) against 1,645 baboons over 1,034 clips in the garden-CT clips (abundance relative per 100 CT days = 266.2).

167

168	Table 1. Individuals observed with particularities classed by the localization and the type of the
169	particularity.

Localization	Face	Limbs	Trunk	Tail	Genital	Total
Depigmentation	1	-	-	-	-	1
Malformation	30	1	1	-	-	32
Malformation/wound	-	-	-	6	-	6
Wound	4	7	2	1	1	15
Total	35	8	3	7	1	54

170

171 Out of the 6551 occurrences when a baboon can be seen, we identified 54 different individuals affected by physical defects (Table 1). Among them, 30 individuals were displaying facial 172 dysplasia: 25 had malformed nostrils, 12 had ectopic apertures on the nose, 10 had an 173 interruption of the nasal bone and three had others defects. The detailed description of the 174 175 individuals presenting facials deformities is available in Table 2 as well as a screen capture of the face for each of them. Each individual was seen a mean of 2.8 times ranging from 1 to 14 176 177 times in 12 different locations (seven in the forest and five in the garden) over 33 CT locations during the entire study period. None of the individuals with facial dysplasia had wounds or 178 179 infections. The lesions observed at different occasions did not change: they did not increase or 180 decrease in size or severity. Most of the individuals with facial deformities were mature baboons (n=20) with nine males, eight females and three of unknown sex. We observed nine 181 juveniles and one infant carried by a non-malformed mother. For two adult females affected 182 (Ind 2 & Ind 3), we could properly observe their infants who did not have visible malformations. 183 The females weremostly affected at the nostrils (n=7), the nasal bone (n=3) and by having 184 ectopic apertures (n=2). The males had also mostly malformed nostrils (n=8), but ectopic 185 apertures (n=7) were more frequent than nasal bone deformity (n=3). There is no apparent effect 186 of gender. 187

188

Sixteen individuals (8 adult males, 3 adult females, 1 adult unknown sex and 4 immature unknown sexes) were seen in association on 17 times in non-independent clips (Table 3). The troops of baboons were not habituated and clearly identified in this study but those associations of recognizable baboons allowed us to establish a draft of troops. We identified a possible troop

that included those sixteen individuals only visible in five locations of CT in the North.

	ription of ndividual				Description of the ind	ividual malforme	ed features		Number of times	Location of camera trap concerned
Code	Class of age	Sex	Nasal bone	Number of nostril	Shape of nostril(s)	Additionnal Appertures	Other	Picture	seen	
Ind 1	Inf	Х	Interrupted	1	central & deformed	-	Lips deformed	R.	3	58
Ind 2	Ad	F	Interrupted	1	central & round	Bottom left	-	-W	12	N4, N5, N6, G3, G9, G11
Ind 3	Ad	F	Interrupted	1	central & triangular	-	-	The	14	N4, N6, G2, G8, G9, G11, G10
Ind 4	Juv	Х	Interrupted	2	asymmetric (left larger)	-	Lips twisted	-	1	58
Ind 5	Juv	х	-	1	central & triangular	-	-	Ø	3	S1, N4, N8
Ind 6	Ad	Μ	Interrupted	2	-	Bottom central	-		1	N6

Table 2. Listed individuals with facial malformations with the picture taken from a screen capture of a video clip.

	ription of ndividual				Description of the inc	lividual malforme	d features		Number of times	Location of camera trap concerned
Code	Class of age	Sex	Nasal bone	Number of nostril	Shape of nostril(s)	Additionnal Appertures	Other	Picture	seen	
Ind 7	Ad	Μ	-	2	asymmetric (right larger)	Slit in the middle of the nose	-		6	N4, N6, S8
Ind 8	Ad	F	-	1	central & round	-	-	and the	1	S8
Ind 9	Juv	Х	-	2	-	-	Asymmetric frown		6	N4, N6, G2, G9
Ind 10	Ad	Μ	-	2	asymmetric (left larger)	Slit in the middle of the nose	-	N	5	N4, N6, G2, G9
Ind 11	Juv	X	-	1	central & round	-	-		5	N4, N6, S2
Ind 12	Juv	х	-	1	central & deformed	-	-		2	N4, G2

	ription of ndividual				Description of the inc	dividual malformed	features		Number of times	Location of camera trap concerned
Code	Class of age	Sex	Nasal bone	Number of nostril	Shape of nostril(s)	Additionnal Appertures	Other	Picture	seen	
Ind 13	Ad	F	-	2	narrow and asymmetric (left higher)	-	-		2	N4
Ind 14	Ad	Μ	Interrupted	2	-	Bottom	-	(W)	1	N6
Ind 15	Juv	х	-	1	no nasal septum	-	-		1	N4
Ind 16	Ad	Μ	Interrupted	2	-	Bottom central	-	T	2	N4
Ind 17	Ad	Μ	-	1	no nasal septum	-	-	B	2	N4, G2
Ind 18	Ad	Μ	-	2	asymmetry (right larger)	Slit in the left side of the nose	-	A	2	N4, N6

	ription of ndividual				Description of the ind	dividual malformed	l features		Number of times	Location of camera trap concerned
Code	Class of age	Sex	Nasal bone	Number of nostril	Shape of nostril(s)	Additionnal Appertures	Other	Picture	seen	
Ind 19	Ad	Μ	Pleated	2	narrow and asymmetric (left longer)	-	-		1	N5
Ind 20	Ad	Μ	-	2	asymmetry (left larger and higher)	-	-	S	3	N8
Ind 21	Ad	Μ	-	1	no nasal septum	In the top middle of the two nostrils	-		2	N8, S2
Ind 22	Ad	Μ	-	2	flat nose	-	-		1	G2
Ind 23	Juv	Х	Interrupted	2	-	Slit on top of the nose	-		1	G2
Ind 24	Ad	Х	-	2	flat nose		-	10	1	G9

	ription of ndividual				Description of the ind	dividual malformed	features		Number of times	Location of camera trap concerned
Code	Class of age	Sex	Nasal bone	Number of nostril	Shape of nostril(s)	Additionnal Appertures	Other	Picture	seen	
Ind 25	Ad	F	-	2	asymmetry (left higher)	Slit in the left side of the nose	-		1	N8
Ind 26	Juv	Х	-	1	central & round	Slits under the nose	-		1	G9
Ind 27	Ad	F	-	2	twisted on the right side	-	-		2	G9, N6
Ind 28	Ad	F	Interrupted	1	central & triangular		-		1	G9
Ind 29	Ad	х	-	2	flat nose and asymmetric (left larger)	-	-	1	1	G11
Ind 30	Ad	Х	-	1	central & round	Slit on top of the nose	-	1 Alexandre	1	G11

Note: Ad : mature individuals, Juv : Juveniles, Inf : Infant, M : Male, F : Female, X : Sex unknown, - : normal feature

Individuals together	Group size	Where
Ind 2 & Ind 3 & Ind 5 & Ind 10 & Ind 15	29	N4
Ind 2 & Ind 3	13	N6
Ind 2 & Ind 3	18	G9
Ind 2 & Ind 3	20	N6
Ind 2 & Ind 13	4	N4
Ind 2 & Ind 14	22	N6
Ind 2 & Ind 18	20	N6
Ind 3 & Ind 7	25	N4
Ind 3 & Ind 23	43	G2
Ind 3 & Ind 24	8	G9
Ind 5 & Ind 21	58	N8
Ind 7 & Ind 9	32	N4
Ind 9 & Ind 10	21	N6
Ind 9 & Ind 11	25	N6
Ind 11 & Ind 13 & Ind 16 & Ind 17	24	N4
Ind 16 & Ind 18	23	N4

201 **Table 3.** Association of individuals with facial malformations observed in non-independent clips.

202

203 Individuals with facial defects are relatively more abundant in the two zones in North and more

204 precisely the North-Western area of Sebitoli (Table 4).

205

Table 4. Distribution in Sebitoli of malformed individuals.

Position	Number of individuals seen	Number of ct	Number of days filmed	Abundance
N/W	23	21	1406	1,63584637
N/E	6	4	804	0,74626866
S/W	3	4	1085	0,2764977
S/E	5	4	833	0,6002401
37 / 41 1		(100 CT 1		

207 *Note*: Abundance = Number of individuals seen/ 100 CT-days

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209 Discussion

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Facial deformities affected 30 olive baboons of both sexes and all the classes of age in Sebitoli, confirming the opportunistic footage by camera trap in 2014 of six olive baboons presenting facial malformations in a troop of 35 individuals¹⁵. There were no wounds, pus or blood likely excluding infection by *Treponema pallidum*²². For individuals seen several times, there was no evolution of the lesions during the study period, and the naso-oro-facial defects are observed in

very young individuals suggesting congenital origins of those malformations. The baboons 216 appeared otherwise to be healthy, integrated into social groups, and apparently reproducing as 217 two females with dysplasia were carrying non-malformed infants. Malformations also occured 218 in other parts of the body as an infant had severely malformed limbs causing locomotor issue 219 and an adult male had a hunchback but those could be related to malnutrition or trauma. 220 Spontaneous malformations occur in a variety of non -human primates in captivity but at low 221 rate (0.3%-0.9%) (Papio sp.^{23,24}; Macaca sp.^{24,25};). Clefts of the palate and/or of the upper lip 222 are very rare in wild non-human primates but have been observed in several species in captivity 223 includingStrepsirrhines (Varecia variegata²⁶) as well as in Haplorhines, including New World 224 monkeys (Callithrix jacchus²⁷; Saimiri sp.^{28,29}), Old World monkeys (Macaca sp.^{30,31}; Papio 225 sp.³²; Mandrillus sphynx³³), and great apes (Gorilla sp.³⁴). In Sebitoli, the large number of 226 individuals of all age and sex classes with facial defects (n=30) observed in the relatively small 227 228 area studied (20 km²), the absence of other cases reported in the national park covering 795 km² likely indicate an etiology related to a local cause. Olive baboons usually live in multi-male, 229 multi-female groups or "troops", ranging in size from 15 to 150 individuals³⁵⁻³⁷. In adjacent 230 troops of olive baboons, all males emigrated from their natal troop in order to mate after they 231 reach sexual maturity and can return for short period of time^{20,38-40} whereas nearly all females 232 remained in their natal troop⁴¹ making the females the basis of troop identity. One-male groups 233 also exist and can be the majority encountered⁴². The home range of forest olive baboons has 234 been rarely studied and was estimated at roughly 390 ha and 520 ha³⁵ which is small compared 235 to the average home range of 3,890 ha given by DeVore⁴³ for savannah baboons. The five 236 locations of CT where we had seen the sixteen individuals in association represented an area of 237 522 ha, so we can estimate that they are part of the same larger troop. Thus, in a single group 238 estimated to count 58 individuals, one out of four individuals is affected. 239

Only one other case of facial deformity concerning an olive baboon has been documented in 240 the south of the park where a female was missing the most basal part of the upper jaw and 241 nose⁴⁵. In addition, there are no cases of similar lesions described in areas without exposition 242 to agrochemicals. This indicates that pesticide exposure could contribute to the facial dysplasia 243 observed in olive baboons as it was suspected for chimpanzees^{12,13,15}. The fact that the two 244 primate species -chimpanzees and olive baboons- in exactly the same range suffer from the 245 same deformities strengthens the chemical pollution hypothesis. In addition, both species 246 regularly feed on crops^{46,47}. In this study area, the crop fields are mostly in the North-western 247 part, between 2 and 4 km away from the road. The most abundant proportion of malformed 248

individuals was also found in the north-western patches suggesting that the chemicals on food 249 cropsassociated with those sprayed on tea, could be indeed responsible. The most affected troop 250 of baboons is living in the Northern location where they are not exposed to road pollution. This 251 is in favor of an etiology related to pesticides rather than combustion gas exposition. According 252 to previous analyses, maize used in this area and consumed by this troop was coated with 253 imidacloprid¹⁵. In addition, maize stem and maize seed samples from Nyakabingo and 254 Kyawankada, the two locations at the far north of the study area, were tested positive for 255 chlorpyrifos¹⁵. In these two locations, farmers also reported using 2,4 D amine on maize. 256 Glyphosate is used in every tea estate including the one in Eastern part of the home range¹⁵. 257 The fact that affected baboons are more often observed in the Western part than Eastern part of 258 the range seems to support an effect of pesticides used in maize or glyphosate associated with 259 other chemicals rather than an effect attributed to glyphosate alone. It is the possible unique 260 261 combination of pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, and fertilizers used in those food crops that could have contaminated water, soil and plants and in consequence affected the wildlife of the 262 park¹³. 263

In response to crop-raiding, farmers usually chased primates, probably causing the baboons of 264 this area to fear human contact. They tend to rapidly flee when humans are near⁴⁸ making them 265 difficult to observe, individually identify, and study. The use of camera traps is very convenient 266 to overcome this difficulty⁴⁹. It is an important tool that allows studying primates without 267 exacerbating potential threats to the species like the transmission of zoonotic diseases⁵⁰⁻⁵², and 268 the potential exposure to poachers⁵³. While also mitigating the negative impacts of habituation, 269 the use of camera-traps can overcome the limitations of direct observations by filming in 270 accessible areas^{54,55} and rare or elusive individuals without the potential human presence 271 bias^{56,57}; in a relatively short period of time⁴⁹ However the counting of individuals in a group, 272 the individual health and behavioral monitoring to estimate the effect of the phenotypical 273 defects would be necessary; there are impossible with this type of indirect survey. 274 Technological advances have led to widespread adoption of camera traps to survey wildlife 275 distribution, abundance and behavior^{58,59} and recently health¹⁵. Indeed, an opportunistic footage 276 by camera trap in 2014 had raised the issue of capturing facial malformations by camera trap 277 with six olive baboons in Sebitoli¹⁵. Our study on a larger scale confirmed the interest of using 278 camera-traps to survey the health of wildlife and improve our knowledge about the insidious 279 280 threat of pollution.

281

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- 283

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