Ectrodactyly and syndactyly in a common marmoset
(Callithrix jacchus)

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Summary
This paper describes previously unreported malformations of both fore and hind feet in a liveborn common marmoset. Ectrodactyly of both fore feet and left hind foot and syndactyly of the right hind foot were observed.

Keywords: Ectrodactyly; Syndactyly; Marmoset

Case report
A 4½-year-old female common marmoset (Callithrix jacchus) produced a single, live, full-term female infant as a result of a normal third pregnancy. The infant was immediately rejected and was removed from its parents; it was at this stage that the infant was seen to have malformed fore and hind feet (Fig. 1). An attempt was made to hand rear the animal but it died 5 days after birth. A detailed post-mortem examination revealed no other macroscopic abnormalities: microscopic examination of the heart, liver, kidneys, spleen and lungs indicated an aspiration pneumonia as contributory to death. The skeleton was stained with Alizarin Red S using a modification of the method of Staples and Schnell (1964) to assess the extent of the malformations. Only the fore and hind feet were abnormal.

Discussion
It would appear that the malformations represented in this marmoset are ectrodactyly of both fore feet and the left hind foot and syndactyly of the right hind foot. Ectrodactyly refers to a heterogeneous group of fore and hind foot malformations that appear to reflect different degrees of a common developmental defect (Horton, 1979). The syndactyly also seen may be a further expression of this defect. In humans the incidence of ectrodactyly has been reported as 1 per 90 000 births (Warkany, 1971) and has not previously been reported in common marmosets. Great-grandparents, grand-

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