

Supplementary Materials for **Cyclical nursing patterns in wild orangutans**

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Supplementary Materials

table S1. Immature wild orangutan individuals examined in the current study.*

Taxon	Accession/Origin	Sex	Age
<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	ZSM 1981/48	female	~8.4
	MCZ 5290	unknown	4.5
<i>Pongo abelii</i>	ZSM 1981/246	male	~8.5
	ZMB 83508	unknown	8.8

* Individuals from the State Anthropological Collection (ZSM) derived from Skalau (eastern West Borneo, in modern Indonesia) and Aceh (Northwest Sumatra) (Rohrer-Ertl, 1988). It was not possible to determine which regions the other two individuals were from, since collection notes were not available for specimens from the Harvard Museum of Natural History (MCZ) or the Humboldt Museum (ZMB). Ages were determined from histological assessments of incremental features of the teeth (27).

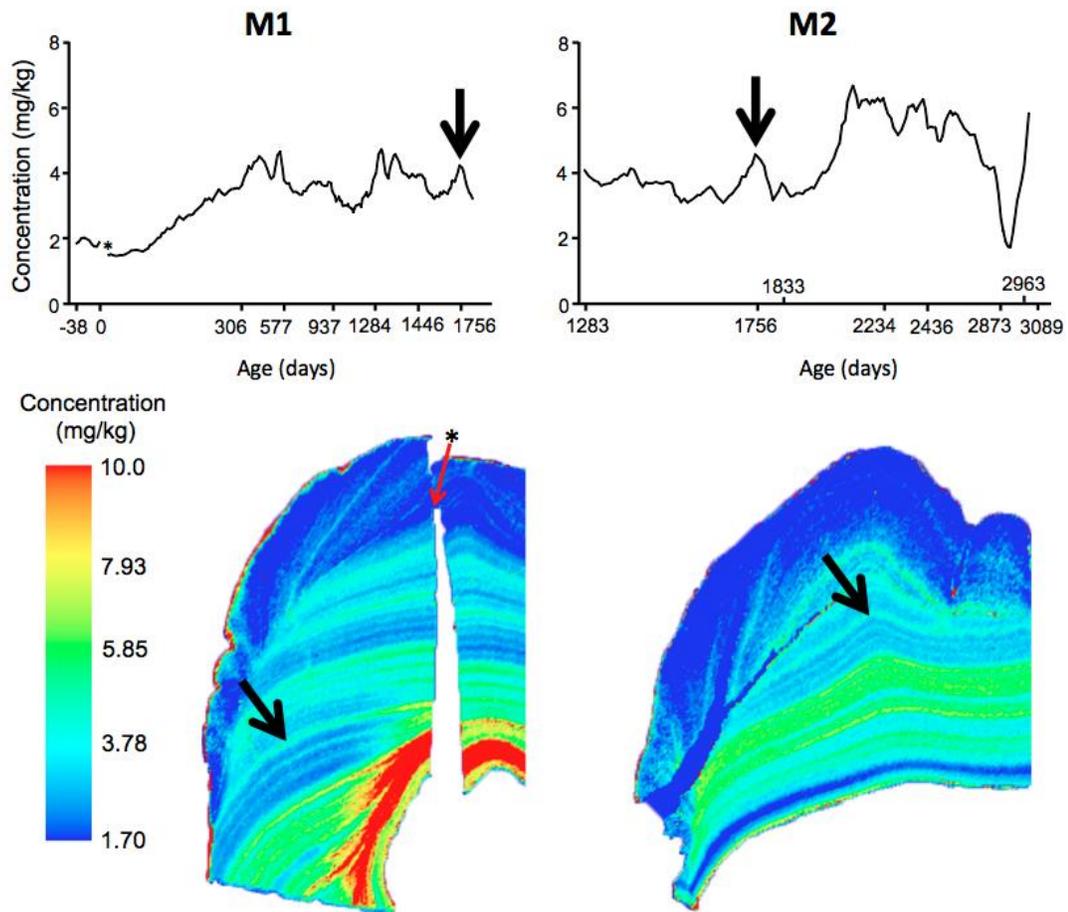


fig. S1. Barium distribution across two molars from an 8.5-year-old male Sumatran orangutan (ZSM 1981/246). Calcium-normalized barium concentrations quantified from the beginning of calcification in the first molar (M1) until the cessation of the second molar (M2) crown formation at death. Ages are presented on a non-linear scale that relates to the changing rate of extension during molar crown formation. Black arrows show the barium pattern used to register the concurrently forming M1 and M2. While the marked decrease in barium concentration shortly before death is suggestive of weaning, the individual did not live long enough after this event to determine if the subsequent elevation just before death was due to increased nursing or a period of skeletal remineralization after weaning.

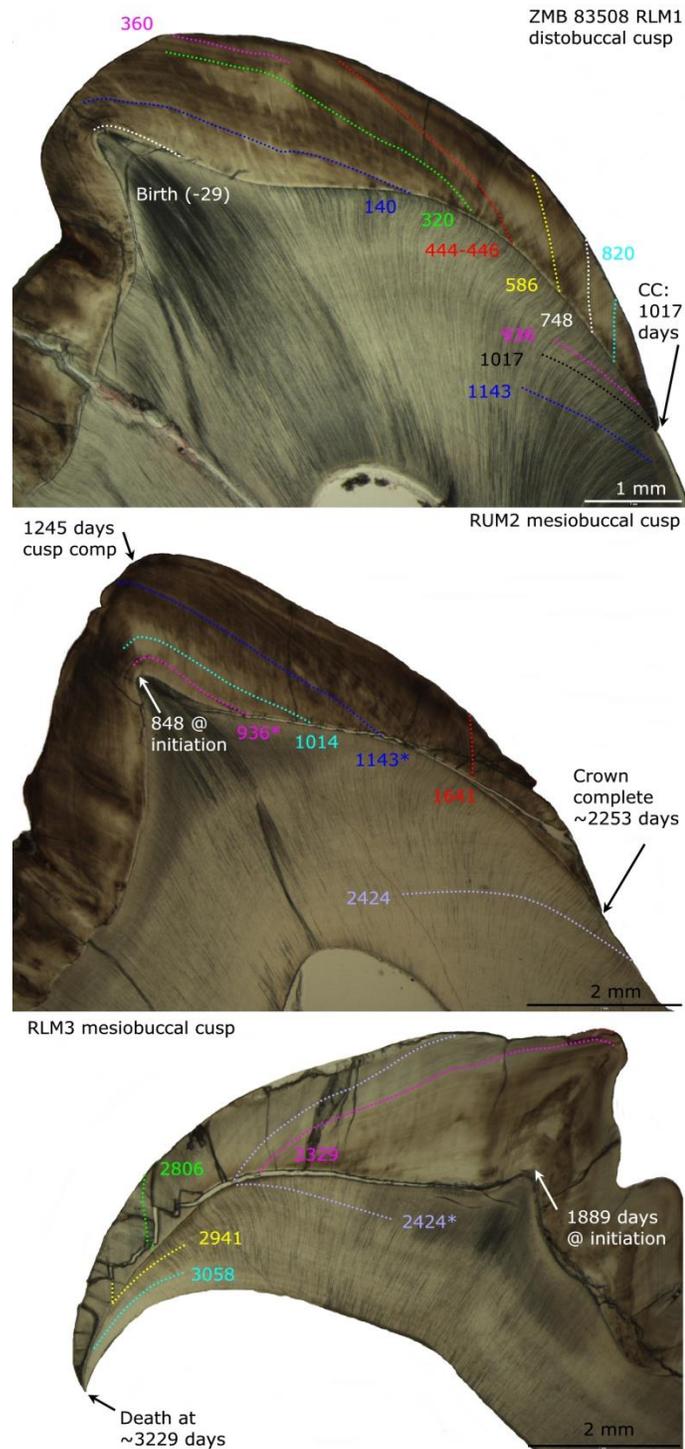


fig. S2. Accentuated line ages in the first to third molars of an 8.8-year-old Sumatran orangutan (ZMB 83508). Histological sections showing the age of accentuated lines in the M1 (top), M2 (middle), and M3 (bottom) (reproduced from 27). Numbers represent the age in days.