Supplemental Information:
Chimpanzee mothers at Bossou, Guinea carry the mummified remains of their dead infants
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Supplemental Results

Events leading up to the deaths of three chimpanzee infants at Bossou

The first of three infant deaths confirmed through observation at Bossou was that of 2.5-year-old female Jokro, and occurred in January 1992, two weeks after the first signs of a respiratory illness were detected in the infant (see ref [2] for the original case report). The likely cause of death was a form of bronchitis or pneumonia, as a result of which the infant became increasingly weak and unresponsive in her final days – she stopped eating and refused invitations to play from fellow group members. Jokro died during the night of January 24, 1992.

The other two infants, 1.2-year old male Jimato and 2.6-year-old Veve, died also of a respiratory disease, during an epidemic in 2003 [8, S1]. Signs of the disease within the community were first detected on November 24, 2003, and Jimato was last seen alive on November 26. On December 3, his death was confirmed when the mother, Jire, was seen carrying his corpse. The date of death was estimated as Dec 1, on the basis of the body’s state of decomposition at the time.

Falling victim to the same illness, Veve was initially abandoned under unknown circumstances by her mother, Vuavua, while still alive [S1]. Veve was suspected to have
died when Vuavua was first observed without her infant on December 2. However, on December 10, Veve was found by a researcher (TH), sitting on the ground in a coffee field within the group’s core area, alive but much weakened. Almost inconceivably, she had survived on her own for over a week. It took three more days – during which Veve was continuously monitored and provided with pieces of fruit by researchers – before the group next passed through the field and came across the abandoned infant. On seeing Veve, Vuavua immediately lifted her up and carried her off, pausing only to examine the face of her infant. Over the days that followed, Veve seemed initially to be recovering, however from around December 25 she was rarely seen to feed, and seemed to be overcome by weakness. Her breathing became shallow and fast, and she, like Jokro before her, no longer engaged in play with other chimpanzees. Veve was last seen alive on December 28, and her death was confirmed on the afternoon of December 30.
Table S1. Summary of three infant chimpanzee deaths and subsequent extended carrying of the corpses by chimpanzee mothers at Bossou, Guinea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of infant (sex)</th>
<th>Mother (year of birth)</th>
<th>Date of death</th>
<th>Age at death (years)</th>
<th>Likely cause of death</th>
<th>Body condition</th>
<th>Time carried after death</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jokro (f)</td>
<td>Jire (~1957)</td>
<td>Early 1989</td>
<td>Jan 24, 1992</td>
<td>~2.5</td>
<td>Respiratory ailment</td>
<td>Mummified &gt;27 days*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* exact length of carrying beyond 27 days unknown, as field observations concluded before Jire had abandoned Jimato’s body.

** estimated; based on state of decomposition of body when first sighted.

Supplemental References