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Johanna Mangahas* (mangahas@umich.edu), 1320 W Stadium Blvd Apt 5, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. *Uniform uniform exponential growth of subgroups of the mapping class group.*

Let $\text{Mod}(S)$ denote the mapping class group of a compact, orientable surface S . We prove that finitely generated subgroups of $\text{Mod}(S)$ which are not virtually abelian have uniform exponential growth with minimal growth rate bounded below by a constant depending only on S . (Received August 28, 2008)