

Introduction to personality traits & cognitive abilities

Focus on personality traits in animal behaviour is a concept that overcomes behavioural variation as a simple variation around the mean adaptive value. This concept uncovers individuals with different behavioural strategies that are successful under different conditions. Especially in rodents that often show pronounced changes of population density, this topic could be seminal. We will welcome contributions concerning the mechanism of personality trait origin as well as the competitive success rate of different personality traits. Beside the mentioned topics we would like to incorporate into the symposium also studies on cognitive ability of rodents, that seems be often connected just with the personality traits. Cognitive abilities of animals demonstrate probably the most complicated problem solving mechanisms that emerged during evolution. In human they reached altogether the highest capacity, nevertheless many partial skills exist that are highly sophisticated but not explained completely so far e.g. orientation and navigation in subterranean rodents etc. However, we would like also to focus on quite simple rigid mechanisms, that are, after all, equal to the plastic cognitive processes but stay underestimated and ignored (e.g. maintaining of pathways, tunnels etc.).

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