Animal personalities on the move

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Propositions accompanying the thesis
"Animal personalities on the move"

1. Rates of evolution are typically assumed to be slow. This assumption may be wrong, as various studies on sticklebacks demonstrate that substantial evolutionary change can occur within a few generations. (Chapter 2 & 3, Garcia-Elfring et al., 2021)

2. Observations in semi-natural mesocosm may be crucial for understanding animal behaviour: it is hard to monitor in the natural habitat and when studied in artificial lab settings, it may not be indicative of behaviour in the wild. (Chapter 4)

3. The social environment plays an influential role in determining individual behaviour, but it is difficult to manipulate. In our case, the social context was crucial for eliciting 'normal' behaviour, but it did not overturn individual behavioural tendencies. (Chapter 5)

4. Individual-based simulations commonly produce unexpected results. Instead of glossing over such results, examining them in detail may reveal novel insights (Intermezzo and Chapter 6)

5. The main virtue of animal personality research lies in the shift of focus from independent behaviours in particular contexts to the architecture underlying behaviour.

6. We cannot hope to understand animal behaviour by studying individual behaviours under highly controlled conditions, removing the complexity of the organism and its environment from the picture. There is no *ceteris paribus* in biology. (Gomez-Martin & Ghazanfar, 2019)

7. Fancy statistics cannot rescue bad science

8. The standards imposed on scientific writing often preclude the expression of excitement that authors feel about their findings. Social media like blogs or Twitter threads are ideal platforms for sharing excitement; they are therefore useful additions to scientific publications.

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