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The eco-evo-devo of stickleback personalities

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Propositions

1. The term *animal personality* is contended among behavioural ecologists, but it is useful to communicate our work and invokes a sense of wonder.
2. Large-scale human alterations of the environment can sometimes serve as unintended experiments offering valuable insights into ecological and evolutionary processes that could not easily be obtained otherwise. (Chapter 2)
3. The restrictive nature of laboratory tests likely leads to an overestimation of the strength that social conformity effects exert on individuals' behaviour. (Chapter 3)
4. Sticklebacks in their natural environment may be less sociable than typically assumed.
5. Meso-scale experiments are ideally suited for studying whether and how animal personality differences affect ecological and evolutionary processes (Chapters 4 & 5)
6. Statistical analyses are often insufficient to capture the complexities of social interactions. Descriptive or even anecdotal evidence is therefore indispensable for achieving a deeper understanding and makes for more engaging science. (Chapters 4 & 5)
7. Humans possess an innate curiosity about the natural world. Understanding when and why this curiosity is lost would solve many of today's societal challenges.
8. The abolishment of large, profit-oriented publishers would come at no detriment to scientific progress.