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The maintenance of variation in avian personality

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Curriculum vitae

I was born on 10th February 1980 in Tabor, Czech Republic. After finishing high school I studied Charles University in Prague where I obtained my master degree in 2005. My master thesis was about the cognitive ecology and ethology. I studied differences in behaviour among the European Tit species, particularly in their reactions on aposematic firebugs (*Pyrhocoris apterus*).

After finishing my master studies I started as a PhD-student at the NIOO in Heteren in 2005. I jumped from the differences in behaviour between species on differences between individuals within one species. However, I was still attached to the birds and studied personality differences in great tit (*Parus major*). I was interested how is variation in personality maintained in the wild and what is the role of negative frequency-dependent selection in this process. The results of this work are presented in this thesis.

Then I spent four months at the University of Bielefeld in Germany where I worked as a research assistant. I continued in theme of personality, but I jumped on mammals, because we tested cavies (*Cavia aperea*) for their personality and were trying to find proper personality tests.

Currently I am in preparations for a flight to New Zealand, where I am going to return back to birds and to help with the research of sound system in the bird species Kokako (*Callaeas cinerea*). The project is an acoustic signal transmission study testing historic and recent recorded kokako songs to determine if dialects have developed in a way that maximizes transmission efficacy.