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Evolutionary ecology of the variable breeding system of Chinese penduline tits

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Propositions associated with this thesis

Evolutionary ecology of the variable breeding system of Chinese penduline tits

by

郑佳 Jia Zheng

1. Regarding parental care decisions, males and females respond differently to remating opportunities. This suggests that males and females are confronted with different reproductive trade-offs.

— Chapter 3

2. A specific behaviour can be adapted to fulfil various evolutionary purposes even among closely related species. By exploring the behavioural functions between sister species, we can peek at the implications of speciation. — Chapter 4

3. Provisioning frequency probably is the easiest measure to estimate parental capability, may not be the only parenting behaviour that matters.

— Chapter 6

4. Models reveal that strikingly different parental care patterns can evolve for the same parameter settings and the same initial conditions. Therefore, different populations of the same species can differ in their pattern of parental care, even if the populations live under similar ecological conditions. — Chapter 7

4. Individual-based models tailored to a specific biological system are an ideal way to obtain empirically relevant insights into behavioural evolution.

— This thesis

5. “Behavioural interactions between partners are likely to have evolved under the tension between conflict and cooperation, and appreciating the full range of variation along the continuum between the two will improve our insight into the evolution of behaviours.” —Simon C. Griffith (2019) *Front. Ecol. Evol.*

6. The behaviour of individuals can affect, and can be affected by, the behaviour of other members of the group. A multi-level framework of social organization is required to understand social evolutions —Maldonado-Chaparro et al. (2018) *Biol. Rev.*

8. Through the workings of love, science, community, time and what I dare to call grace, some elemental shift will occur and we will find we are semi-OK again. And even semi-OK can be a miracle. —Anne Lamott

9. “Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field, I will meet you there.” —Jalal ad-Din Rumi

10. The greatest two enjoyments of life are Chinese dishes and Dutch vacations. Never switch the two countries.