



03.09.2020



Master Thesis - Innovation and problem-solving along the rural-urban gradient

Living in a human-altered world requires the ability to produce new behaviours or to apply novel solutions to old problems. The ability to innovate could be a major advantage for animals living in anthropogenic environments, helping them cope with novel challenges and changes. Here we want to develop experimental methods to test innovative behaviour directly on the field and investigate potential differences in innovative problem solving and foraging in small mammals along a rural-urban gradient.

The project involves the developing and refining of new experimental methods, behavioural observations and video analysis. Data collection takes place at the University of Potsdam Biological Station Gülpe (Havelland), Potsdam and Berlin.

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