

Interactions between a native and an invasive rodent species – activity patterns and personalities



In the last 100 years the central European bank vole is spreading in Ireland, reducing the populations of native wood mice. A team of researchers both from Ireland and Germany observed the behaviour of both species in their natural habitat. On six sites in Ireland the animals were captured, individually marked and their personality quantified. On each site ten small mammal spy boxes were set up, collecting short video sequences of the rodents entering the boxes. As a master thesis project activity patterns of the species occurring together and alone can be compared based on the videos, as well as the behaviour of the rodents in the spy boxes (latency to visit spy box, visit duration, persistence and frequency of visits, interactions between con- and heterospecifics, etc.) can be analyzed in relation to their personality.

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