



Are you interested in finding out how bank voles (*Myodes glareolus*) are choosing their mates?

Do you like to work with small mammals?

Do you want to learn how to handle animals, and conduct behavioural and personality tests?

Master thesis opportunity

To choose an attractive male can be beneficial for female's fitness, considering that the genes that male possesses could increase offspring viability and/or mating success. During the onset of breeding in spring, females may make the best of a bad job and mate with the locally available male sibling, as indicated by the finding of reduced genetic diversity in spring and in low densities. If an unknown, i.e., less related/unrelated, male intrudes, females may seek this opportunity to increase their offspring heterozygosity by terminating a current pregnancy and remating with the new male. This outbreeding might ultimately increase the fitness of the female's offspring.

In this project we are trying to:

- experimentally disentangle adaptive and mechanistic explanations for pregnancy turnover using bank voles as experimental subjects,
- find out are there any specific traits that make males more, or less, desirable to females.

We are looking for students from Biology, Ecology or similar fields that are interested in:

- Working with small mammals,
- Working independently,
- Learning how to do behavioral tests,
- Want to contribute to research project.

Project would be conducted in Spring and Summer 2023 in animal housing facility (ATB, Potsdam). **Interested?**

If you want to know more or are interested in the project, please contact: **vodjerek@uni-potsdam.de**

