

Master Thesis - Personality and cognitive strategies in small mammals



Patterns of individual differences in cognition have been studied systematically in the last decade, but causes and consequences of this variation are still largely unclear. A recent hypothesis suggests that one predictor of individual variation in cognition is animal personality, and specifically that personality types are linked to cognitive strategies through a speed–accuracy trade-off.

In this project we test specific predictions of this hypothesis, measuring individual differences in learning speed and flexibility of small mammals, along personality traits exploration, activity and boldness.

The project involves the refining of experimental set-ups, behavioural observations, habituation and training of the animals.

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