

Dr. Valeria Mazza

Personal Details

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Profile

Valeria is a behavioural ecologist interested in understanding how individual behavioural and cognitive traits help animals cope with environmental challenges in the context of current human-induced rapid environmental changes. She obtained her PhD at the University of Florence, Italy, with a dissertation examining the link between individual differences in cognition, behaviour and physiology. Her post-doctoral work at the University of Potsdam addressed the role of among-individual variation in behaviour in adjusting to urbanisation. Since 2020, Valeria is the Research Associate in the Animal Ecology Group at UP, and her current projects integrate her cognitive ecology background with her interest and experience in the study of behavioural responses to novel environments. Her research focuses on the role within-specie variation in cognition and innovative problem-solving in mediating the successful establishment and permanence in human-altered and/or non-native environments in several mammal species.

Education

2018	PhD in Biology, University of Florence, Italy
2009	MSc in Biology, University of Turin, Italy
2007	BSc in Biology, University of Turin, Italy

Professional Experience

Since 2020	Research Associate (<i>Qualifikationsstelle Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiterin</i>) Animal Ecology, University of Potsdam, Germany.
2018-2020	Post-doctoral researcher Animal Ecology, University of Potsdam, Germany.

Honours and Scholarships

2018	“Honour mention” for excellent doctoral work awarded by the Committee evaluating the doctoral dissertation.
2014	Scholarship to conduct doctoral research at the Department of Biology of the University of Florence for the Curriculum “Ethology and Ecology”.
2009	Honours and recommendation for publication of the master thesis.

Procured Research Funding

Overall national and international competitive funding procured: 205'025 €

Publications

Mazza V., Czypperreck I.†, Eccard J. A., & Dammhahn M. (2021). Cross-Context Responses to Novelty in Rural and Urban Small Mammals. Research Topic Cognition and Adaptation to Urban Environments in Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution 9:661971. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fevo.2021.661971>

Mazza V. & Guenther A. (2021). City mice and country mice: innovative problem solving in rural and urban non-commensal rodents. Animal Behaviour 172:197-210. doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2020.12.007

Mazza V.*, Dammhahn M.*, Lösche E.†, & Eccard J. A. (2020). Small mammals in the big city: Behavioural adjustments of non-commensal rodents to urban environments. Global Change Biology 26(11):6326-6337. doi.org/10.1111/gcb.15304

Dammhahn M.*, **Mazza V.***, Schirmer A., Götttsche Ct., & Eccard J. A. (2020). Of city and village mice: behavioural adjustments of striped field mice to urban environments. Scientific Reports 10:13056. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-69998-6

Mazza V., Dammhahn M., Eccard J. A., Palme R., Zaccaroni M., & Jacob J. (2019). Coping with style: individual differences in responses to environmental variation. Behavioural Ecology and Sociobiology 73:142. doi.org/10.1007/s00265-019-2760-2

Mazza V., Jacob J., Dammhahn M., Zaccaroni M., & Eccard J.A. (2019). Individual variation in cognitive style reflects foraging and anti-predator strategies in a small mammal. Scientific Reports 9:10157. doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-46582-1

Dell'Agnello F., Martini M.†, Mori E., Mazza G., **Mazza V.**, & Zaccaroni, M. (2019). Winter activity rhythms of a rodent pest species in agricultural habitats. Mammal Research 65:69-74. doi.org/10.1007/s13364-019-00443-4

Mazza V., Eccard J.A., Zaccaroni M., Jacob J., & Dammhahn M. (2018). The fast and the flexible: cognitive style drives individual variation in cognition in a small mammal. Animal Behaviour 137:119-132. doi.org/10.1016/j.anbehav.2018.01.011

Dell'Agnello F., **Mazza V.**, Martini M.†, Bertolino S., Capizzi D., Riga F., & Zaccaroni M. (2018). Trap type and positioning: how to trap Savi's pine voles using the tunnel system. Mammalia 82(4):350-354. doi.org/10.1515/mammalia-2017-0005

Dell'Agnello F., Barfknecht R., Bertolino S., Capizzi D., Martini M.†, **Mazza V.**, Riga F., & Zaccaroni M. (2018). Consistent demographic trends in Savi's pine vole between two distant areas in central Italy. Folia Zoologica 67:35-42. doi.org/10.25225/fozo.v67.i1.a3.2018

Ranchelli E., Barfknecht R., Capizzi D., Riga F., **Mazza V.**, Dell'Agnello F., & Zaccaroni M. (2016). From biology to management of Savi's pine vole (*Microtus savii*). Pest Management Science 72(5):857-863. doi.org/10.1002/ps.4212

Preprint (not peer-reviewed)

Eccard J.A., **Mazza V.**, Holland C., & Stuart P. (2022). The timid invasion: Behavioral adjustments favor range expansion in a non-native rodent. Preprint on bioRxiv doi.org/10.1101/2022.06.16.494985

*Authors contributed equally; †undergraduate student author