2015 - VOLUME 27 ISSUE 2

ISBE Newsletter

International Society for Behavioral Ecology
www.behavecol.com
Supplement to *Behavioral Ecology*

CONTENTS

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Autumn is "Nobel season" in Sweden. First there are the announcements of the laureates in October, then in December the award ceremony and the live broadcast from the banquet. I enjoy these events, because for a while, media directs some focus to science, scientists and science communication. I wish this could be kept up year-round, and take place in more countries, because there is a need for more a greater scientific literacy in the everyday discourse. It is nedeed both to educate the public on scientific achievements, but also to attract youngsters to science, and to keep people motivated to spend tax money on us researchers. The 20th centrury was described as the century of Physics, while many predict the 21st century will be one of Biology. Sadly, there is no Nobel prize in Biology. You can't blame Alfred Nobel for this, because it didn't really exist as a dicipline at the end of the 19th century when he wrote down his will.

Amazingly, research in animal behaviour has in fact been awarded by the Nobel committe, when von Frisch, Lorenz and Tinbergen received the *Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine* in 1973 "for their discoveries concerning organization and elicitation of individual and social behaviour patterns". Sadly, this was probably a one-off, unless some lover of behavioual ecology donates enough money to instate a new prize, like the Swedish National Bank has done for Economic science.

P. Andreas Svensson, ISBE Newsletter editor
Linnaeus University, Kalmar, Sweden
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How to contribute to the newsletter

The ISBE Newsletter publishes Book Reviews, Conference/Workshop Reviews and Commentary Articles of interest to the International Society for Behavioral Ecology. The ISBE Newsletter will only consider work that is not already published or intended to be submitted for publication elsewhere.

Book Reviews:. Persons involved in the publishing of books who would like these to be considered for review in the Newsletter should contact the Editor and arrange for their publisher to forward a review copy to this office. Authors may submit a list of possible reviewers. Members who wish to review a particular text should contact the Editor. The Editor will provide reviewers with instructions and a style sheet. Reviews are typically 1500-2000 words. For a list of books available for review, see the end of this Newsletter

Workshop/Conference Reviews: Workshop and/or Conference reviews should be prepared in one of the following two formats. *Brief synopses* (max 1500 words) and *Longer reports* (max 3000 words) Graduate students and postdocs are strongly encouraged to consider contributing to writing these reports.

Cartoons: Cartoonists and other artists are encouraged to submit artwork, either in hardcopy, or as TIFF or high resolution (300 dpi) gig or jpg files. All cartoons published in the newsletter will be credited to the illustrator, and will appear on the Newsletter's website www.behavecol.com.

Spotlight on young scientists: Early career members (PhDs/ postdocs) are encouraged to participate in the section "Spotlight on"; please provide name, education, current address, research interests and selected papers in an email to the editor.

ISBE EXECUTIVE

FIELD COURSES IN COSTA RICA



Do you have an interest in primates, tropical ecology and/or conservation?
Are you looking to gain valuable field experience?
Would you like to learn about other cultures?
Would you like to learn more about yourself?

Danta is pleased to announce our 2016 winter session field courses in tropical biology. Our course are intended for undergraduates or early graduate level students who have a keen interest in tropical ecosystems and conservation, but have little or no experience of working in a tropical environment. Participants may enroll on either a credit or non-credit basis.

DANTA operates on a cooperative and collaborative teaching model with multiple international instructors on each course. Co-instruction allows for more individualized instruction, and the sharing and appreciation of different ideas. Visiting scholars are often incorporated into the curriculum to broaden student experience.

Winter Session (January 1 - 15, 2016)
- Birds of Costa Rica
- Methods in Primate Behavior and Conservation
- Neotropical Bat Biology

Summer Session (June & July 2016)
- Primate Behavior and Conservation
- Human Ecology and Tropical Conservation
- Methods in Primate Behavior and Conservation

For more information, please visit our website at www.DANTA.info and/or email: conservation@danta.info. You can find us on Facebook and Twitter. For an alumni perspective on our programs, please see our new blog DANTAisms http://dantablog.wordpress.com/.

Hope to see you in Costa Rica!

Kimberly A. Dingess
DANTA, Association for Conservation of the Tropics

ISBE 2016 - CALL FOR SYMPOSIA

As in previous years, ISBE 2016 at the University of Exeter (www.isbe2016.com) will include an extra day after the main conference to host up to 10 small, themed symposia. We are now inviting proposals for these symposia.

We will host up to 10 concurrent symposia on Weds 3rd August 2016, immediately following the main conference (29th July - 2nd August). Each symposium should focus on an issue of current relevance and interest within behavioural ecology as broadly defined.

Each symposium should be organised by a maximum of three people. Symposium formats are flexible, and we encourage applicants to be creative: you may include a mix of talks, opportunities for discussion or breakout groups, teaching forums and/or workshops. Our facilities can hold up to 350 people per symposia. We encourage applications from, and/or involvement of, early career researchers.

To submit a proposal, send a 2-page (single spaced) outline including affiliations and contact details of the organisers, a description of the proposed theme/topic, a justification of its relevance/timeliness, and proposed symposium structure (symposium participants do not need to be confirmed but please give an indicative list).

Proposals should be sent to science@isbe2016.com by 18th December 2015. Any queries please to the same address.

Proposals will be selected by the ISBE organising committee on the criteria of (i) scientific rigour, (ii) timeliness/relevance to the field of behavioural ecology, and (iii) symposium structure and balance of topics/participants (please aim to ensure an equal number of male and female participants from a range of career stages and national affiliations).

PARTICIPATION IN ANIMAL WEFARE SURVEY

We would like your help with an important research project on public attitudes to animals at Queen Mary University of London (http://www.qmul.ac.uk). As part of a larger program to investigate methods of improving understanding of animal use within society, we are conducting a survey to evaluate people's views on animal cognition and welfare. We are aiming to include as wide a range of views as possible to ensure that the study is representative of public opinion.

The project is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC, http://www.esrc.ac.uk) and participation is strictly voluntary. Your answers will be anonymous and the results of the survey will be reported in summary format. The survey will require approximately 10 minutes to complete and as a token of our appreciation for your participation, you will be able to submit an email address for entry into a prize draw to win shopping vouchers.

To complete the survey online, please use this link:
https://theanthrozoologist.wordpress.com/survey/

Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in this important project. If you have any questions about the survey, please reply to this email with your queries. We hope that you can distribute/publicise the survey to your colleagues or organisation members who may also be interested in participating."

Best regards,
Alan McElligott

STEPHEN J. MULLIN HAS A NEW ADDRESS

Stephen J. Mullin, Ph.D.
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http://www.sfasu.edu/biology/108.asp
http://mullinlab.weebly.com

C O N F E R E N C E C A L E N D A R

ASAB Winter Conference 2015. Animal Social Learning and Culture. London, UK December 3-4 2015. St Andrews, UK Organisers: Kevin Laland and Andy Whiten. http://synergy.st-andrews.ac.uk/solace/asab-winter-conference-2015/

Cohesion and Conformity: HOW Social Groups Stay and Function Together. Xth Göttinger Freilandtage. December 8-11, 2015 in Göttingen, Germany. www.freilandtage.de

British Ecological Society Annual Meeting. 13 – 16 December 2015 Edinburgh, UK. www.britishecologicalsociety.org/events/current_future_meetings

Society Of Integrative And Comparative Biology (SICB) **Meeting**. Jan 3-7, 2016 in Portland, OR. http://www.sicb.org/meetings/2016/

Species on the Move – Detection, Impacts, Prediction & Adaptation. Hobart, Tasmania 9-12 Feb 2016. http://www.speciesonthemove.com/

International Congress of Neuroethology Montevideo, Uruguay March 30 – April 3 2016. http://eventegg.com/icn-2016/

The European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association (EHBEA) conference. 5-8 April 2016 in London, UK. http://ehbea.com/

EMBO|EMBL New Model Systems for Linking Evolution and Ecology Symposium. Date: 8–11 May 2016. Heidelberg, Germany. http://www.embo-embl-symposia.org/symposia/2016/EES16-03/

Ecological and Evolutionary Ethology of Fishes, (**EEEF) Meeting**. June 14-16, 2016 Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Florida, USA http://www.marinelab.fsu.edu/eeef/

Evolution 2016. A joint conference of the American Society of Naturalists, the Society for the Study of Evolution, and the Society of Systematic Biologists. June 17-21, 2016 in Austin, Texas, USA. http://www.evolutionmeetings.org/evolution-2016---austin-texas.html

Human Behavior and Evolution Society conference. June 29 – July 2, 2016, Vancouver, Canada. https://www.hbes.com/hbes2016/

Society for Molecular Boiology and Evolution meeting Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia July 3-6. http://smbe2016.org/

Arachnology meeting. Joint meeting of the International Society of Arachnology and the American Arachnological Society. July 2-9, 2016. Golden, Colorado. http://www.americanarachnology.org/about_AAS/bb-items/ISA_AAS_2016.pdf

The Society of Experimental Biology Annual Meeting. Brighton, UK. 4-7 July 2016. http://www.sebiology.org/meetings/

Society for Conservation Biology 4th Oceania Congress (OCCB). July 6-8, 2016 in Brisbane, Australia. http://brisbane2016.scboceania.org/

International Society for Applied Ethology Congress. 12-16 July 2016 in Edinburgh, UK http://www.isae2016.co.uk/

ISBE 2016: International Society for Behavioral Ecology congress. Exeter UK**,** 28 July - 3 Aug 2016. ttp://www.isbe2016.com/

ABS meeting. 53rd Annual Meeting Animal Behavior Society. 30 July - 3 Aug 2016 - University of Missouri, Columbia, Misssouri, USA. http://www.animalbehaviorsociety.org/

Human Ethology Congress. The 23rd Biennial Congress on Human Ethology. Aug 1 - 5 2016 University of Stirling, Scotland. http://ishe.org/stirling-2016/

8th World Congress of Herpetology. 15-21 August 2016. Hangzhou, China. www.worldcongressofherpetology.org

International Congress of Entomology September 25-30 2016, Orlando, Florida, USA www.ice2016orlando.org

Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) - Annual Meeting 2017: 4-8 January, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

European Society for Evolutionary biology (ESEB) Congress. August 20 – 25 2017 in Groningen, The Netherlands. http://www.eseb2017.nl/

POSTDOC POSITION AVALIABLE

We seek a postdoctoral fellow to participate in our ongoing research projects on how sociality interacts with ecology and attributes of social groups to impact reproductive success in communally rearing rodents Octodon degus. The postdoctoral fellow will design and/or conduct a project that complements our research program. This may include the use of a long-term (11 year) database, and genotyping of adults and offspring. The postdoctoral fellow is expected to generate publications in peer reviewed journals and present results at international meetings.

Project duration: 2-3 years, Location: Santiago, Chile

Requirements: The ideal candidate will have an expertise in behavioral ecology and data analyses. We seek individuals with compatible interests in social theory, some basic experience with lab techniques used to genotype and then run paternity and maternity analyses, ability to work with large datasets, and the desire to develop field tests of theory. The candidate must have a history of publishing papers in peer-reviewed journals and the potential to secure external funding as indicated by previous research grants. The ideal candidate will have willingness to work with students and other junior scientists. A PhD must be earned within 1st of January 2013 and 1st of November 2016, the beginning of this postdoctoral training. Although not a requirement, we prefer individuals with some Spanish language skills.

Funding: The prospective postdoctoral fellow will need to apply to the FONDECTY postdoctoral program, the postdoctoral training program in Chile. This program provides considerable support to researchers of any nationality (Research stipend, Travel and research expenses, Health insurance, Movement costs).

Formal application (in English) to FONDECYT will be from 15 April – 20 May 2016, so a complete application draft should be nearly ready before that time. Very important to international applicants, the FONDECYT program requires successful applicants to spend no less than 6 months in Chile during each funding year.

US citizens are also encouraged to seek funding from the National Science Foundation. See: http://nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5179&org=NSF

Information: Interested individuals should submit (i) documentation of PhD earned or evidence that PhD will be earned by 20XX, (ii) a CV highlighting research and educational activities, (iii) two recent publications, and (iv) contact information of three academic professionals (including a PhD advisor). Applicants should be prepared to discuss questions that relate to and potentially expand upon our published work on degus. To this end, please indicate potential interest in the text of your email. The description should be brief, but with enough information to determine the potential compatibility of the applicant's ideas to the our long-term study. This information should be combined into a single PDF file with the title:
'Lastname_Firstname_FONDECTYpostdoc'.

Contacts: Prof. Luis Ebensperger, P. Universidad Catolica de Chile (lebensperger@bio.puc.cl)
Prof. Loren Hayes, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (loren-hayes@utc.edu).

MS / PhD POSITIONS AVALIABLE

The Fuxjager lab is seeking applications for graduate student positions (M.S. or Ph.D.) in the Biology Department at Wake Forest University. The lab is broadly interested in the physiological mechanisms of complex social behavior, and we integrate concepts from the fields of physiology, animal behavior, and evolution. Of particular interest are the mechanisms by which hormone systems regulate avian territoriality and social signaling, and the way that evolutionary forces shape these mechanisms to drive species differences in behavioral ability and strategy. The laboratory has opportunities for fieldwork in both North Carolina and Central and South America. Additional information is found on the laboratory website (fuxjagerlab.com).

Successful applicants are guaranteed funding through teaching assistantships, though promising applicants are also eligible for funding through research assistantships. The Biology Department at Wake Forest is made of a diverse and vibrant research community, with specialties in the areas of organismal biology.

Interested applicants should contact the lab PI, Dr. Matt Fuxjager, by email (fuxjagmj@wfu.edu). Please include a copy of your CV and a statement that described your research interests and goals.

PhD POSITION AVALIABLE

"Do older males deliver the good epigenes?"

We seek a highly motivated and enthusiastic student for a fully funded (Marsden Fund) PhD scholarship position, commencing in 2016. The project will investigate how the accumulation of challenges experienced as males age affects subsequent generations, and identify key candidate genes for transgenerational effects observed. This work will use a vertebrate model, the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*), and involves extensive experimental work manipulating environmental stressors (e.g. toxins, hypoxia, chemical alarm cues), phenotyping to assess personality and life-history traits, breeding the lines through to obtain multigenerational data, and the generation and analysis of next-generation sequence data. The student will join the Behavioural & Evolutionary Ecology Group, led by Dr. Sheri Johnson, in the Zoology Department at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. This project also involves an exciting multidisciplinary team of collaborators: Prof Neil Gemmell (U. Otago), Dr Tim Hore (U. Otago), A/Prof Shinichi Nakagawa (U. New South Wales), and A/Prof Simone Immler (Uppsala University).

Selection/admission criteria: We seek a student with a strong academic record, a keen interest in animal behaviour and/or evolutionary biology, appropriate practical and technical experience, and a demonstrated ability in written and oral communication. The ideal candidate will be interested in both the phenotypic and epigenetic/genetic aspects of the project, but students interested in only the phenotypic aspects (or vice versa) are still encouraged to inquire about the project. The ideal candidate is expected to hold a relevant Hons / MSc degree and must be eligible to enroll in the University of Otago's PhD (3 year) programme. This PhD scholarship has an annual stipend of NZ$25,000 (tax free) plus student fees for a period of 3 years, subject to satisfactory progress. International (i.e. non-New Zealand resident) students are welcome and encouraged to apply. Application: If you are interested in joining our exciting project at Otago, please send an e-mail with an expression of interest and your CV to Sheri Johnson (sheri.johnson@otago.ac.nz), ideally by November 30, 2015 (though the position will remain advertised until filled).

For more information on the project:
http://www.royalsociety.org.nz/2015/11/05/do-older-males-deliver-goodepigenes/

For information on PhD study at the University of Otago, including entry requirements, see:
http://www.otago.ac.nz/postgraduate/index.html.
For information on the Department of Zoology, see:
http://www.otago.ac.nz/zoology.

LAUNCH OF A NEW SOCIETY

Society for the Study of Cultural Evolution (SSCE).

As you know, when evolution is defined in terms of variation, selection, and heredity, it includes but goes beyond genetic evolution. Yet, the study of evolution became highly gene-centric during the 20th century, so much that it is often defined in terms of genetic change. The formal study of cultural change as an evolutionary process with its own mechanisms of inheritance in only now coming into its own (e.g. Jablonka and Lamb's *Evolution in Four Dimensions* and Richerson and Boyd's *Not By Genes Alone*). While the study of cultural evolution in non-human species draws upon the familiar EEB disciplines, the study of cultural evolution in humans draws upon dozens of human-related disciplines that are typically not associated with either biology or evolution. Hence the need for a new society centered on the study of cultural evolution.

The SSCE has already attracted over 400 members during the first week of its membership drive, which indicates a high degree interest and need. It is especially important to recruit members who study cultural evolution in non-human species and who bring solid evolutionary training to the study of human cultural evolution. It is also important to recruit members internationally so that the SSCE can be truly cross-cultural. Hence the importance of publicizing the SSCE through ISBE.

We are deliberately recruiting founding members before we create the bylaws and set the agenda for the SSCE so that founding members can take part in these important decisions.

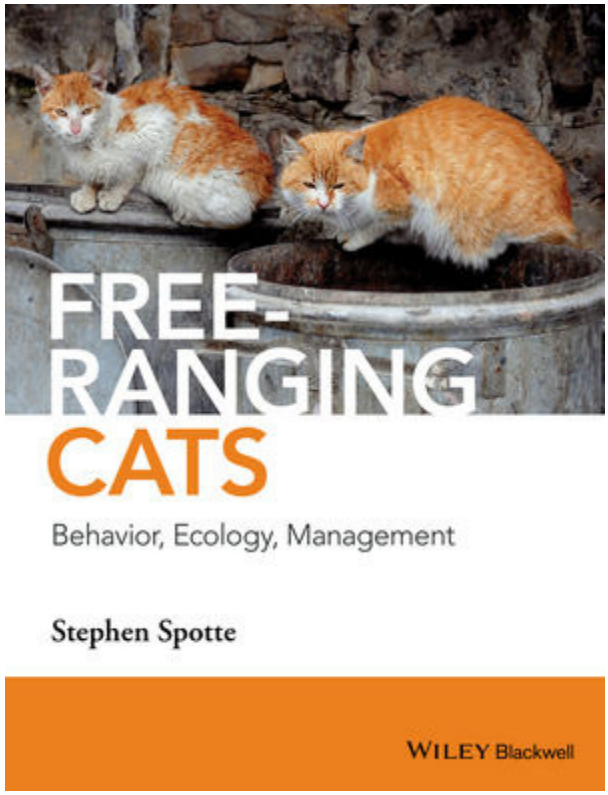
The agenda for the SSCE will include forming cooperative associations with other societies. The best way to do this with the ISBE is through people who are members of both societies.

Sincerely,
David Sloan Wilson
President, The Evolution Institute

SSCE campaign page:
https://evolution-institute.org/project/society-for-the-study-of-cultural-evolution

Free-Ranging Cats: Behavior, Ecology, Management
By Stephen Spott

John Wiley & Sons, 2014. 296 Pp
ISBN 978-1-118-88401-0



Free ranging cats, *Felix catus*, are comprised of pet cats (that are left out of their house unsupervised for periods of time), stray cats (pet cats that have returned to the wild but still require human presence to survive and reproduce) and feral cats (fully wild), and have been the focus of numerous research and large-scale management actions in the last few decades. Cats introduced in new habitats have had significant impacts on native wildlife, in particular on island ecosystems where the fauna is naive to such an efficient predator. Ground-nesting birds such as seabirds have been particularly affected but other groups such as arthropods and reptiles have also suffered from predation by introduced cats. Management actions are required in many islands and other areas and, therefore, a book that summarises the state of our ecological knowledge on free-ranging cats and management options would be helpful for anyone working in this field, starting up a cat control or wanting to know more about this topic for interest, and understand better the issues that wild cats may pose.

The book 'Free-Ranging Cats: Behavior, Ecology, Management', authored by Stephen Spotte promises to fill this need. It is accompanied by the author's website where all figures, tables and appendices are available. The book contains a very large number of references on cat biology and behaviour. The book is mainly made of text, an easy read and well-written. Tables, figures and photos are used to illustrate scientific results. The book does, however, sometimes become confusing with some detailed scientific research being explained alongside very basic and interesting facts about cats. This makes it difficult, at first, to understand the target audience of this book and its exact aims. We were attracted to this book as we were scoping a study of free-ranging cat behaviour in the Falkland Islands. NM has many years of previous experience with successful cat programs in New Zealand to protect native species, within 'mainland-islands' using intensive and targeted trapping programs in combination with predator proof fences. Having a summary book of current knowledge on cat behaviour, ecology and management would be useful for us to improve methodologies based on current knowledge on cats and management options trialled around the world, and everyone else engaging or simply interested in this field.

The book title promises 3 main aspects that should be covered: behaviour, ecology and management. However, the book structure is quite different. The first eight chapters (out of 10) summarises very well the knowledge on general cat biology and behaviour. These eight chapters are: 1. Dominance, 2. Space, 3. Interaction, 4. Reproduction, 5. Development, 6. Emulative learning and play, 7. Nutrition, and 8. Water balance and energy. These are all important basic knowledge to understand the ecology of cat and, some of them, essential to develop efficient management. They are presented in clearly-headed sections with interesting examples using published science. However, the link between these basic biological and behavioural aspects (and the entertaining anecdotes included throughout) and their application and importance for management questions is not made in the book. The main behaviours that would bridge this general knowledge with management is only found in the Chapter 9 'Foraging' and, even though this chapter covers a range of topics from scavenging to prey selection, it does not address several spatial aspects that have been the focus of many more recent scientific studies in numerous countries. Chapter 2 'Space' also contains some information about this spatial aspect such home ranges and habitat selection briefly discussed. The last chapter (Chapter 10) then touches on 'Management' tackling the effects of free-ranging cats on wildlife to different types of control. This is, nevertheless, contained in only 35 pages out of the 250 pages of text of the book. The author has made the effort to mention most of the different management options and the difficulties that some of them represent, both for logistical and ethical issues. The section on trap-neuter-release is particularly well written in addressing this controversial and emotive topic. Despite introducing all the general knowledge on cats in previous chapters, the book failed to deliver a summary of current knowledge and state of management of free-ranging cats and pulling all that knowledge together to explain management needs and options. Without clear directions, the previous chapters appear disjointed and the book feels more like a

conglomeration of interesting and useful knowledge rather than aiming to provide a framework for management.

Regarding management and the shortfall of this section, we have noted a few examples of why we felt the book does not deliver on this part. It would have been good to have a mention of compulsory micro-chipping and registration of all pet cats in areas where they have been introduced, and in particular in areas where wildlife is highly vulnerable to introduced cats. Other options such as keeping pet cats indoor or in a fenced off garden at all times (or using long leads) could have also been mentioned. Effective large scale trapping programs are not discussed where examples of mainland sites such as those in New Zealand could have been presented as case studies on large scale control of feral cats. These programs have been shown to have positive conservation outcomes for ground nesting birds and lizards through a combination of high quality trapping regimes, predator fencing and use of dogs and shooting. Throughout the book there are sections on the biology and general behaviour of cats such as tracking and habitat use or hunting strategy which can be used to help set up effective programs management for feral cats. It should also be noted from the toxin section that 1080 is not an anti-coagulant but interferes with the Krebs cycle, leading to death.

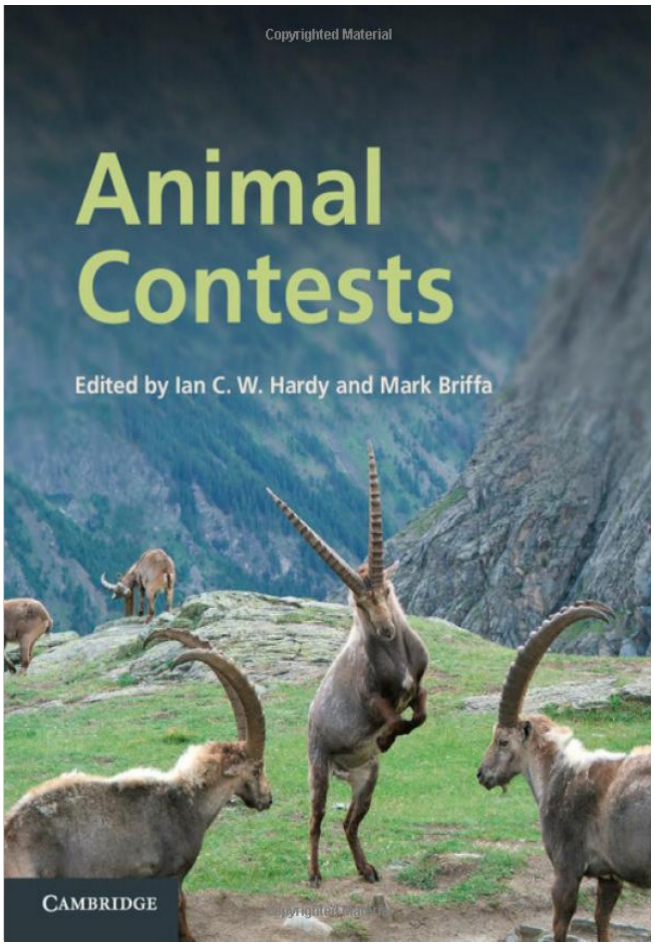
In conclusion, this is a heart-felt book from a good writer who has and loves cats but understands the ecological threats they may cause in areas where they are introduced predators. We finally agreed that this book was more targeted to a general audience, and could be a good reference book for people who have cats and want to understand better their pets or naturalists interested in free-ranging cats. The book would also be a good start point for research students undertaking a project on cats because it summarises well the general biology and behaviour of this species, and, therefore would be a good addition to university libraries as a reference book. The online resources may also be useful to students or researchers new to this field because it provides figures and tables ready for use. The reference list will be useful to these groups, despite lacking the most recent references, in particular for cat management and foraging behaviour. Where we thought the book was not performing as well as promised by its title is the 'Management' section. The main concepts are there but are not developed or referenced enough for this section to be fulfilling the role of a summary of what has been trialled, successfully and not, for free-ranging cat management. Overall, the book provides a good overview of the general biology and behaviour of cats and we would recommend that people see it as a book that presents cats' biology and behaviour rather than management.

Amélie A. Augé and Nathan McNally
South Atlantic Environmental Research Institute, Falkland Islands

BOOK REVIEW

Animal Contests.
Edited by: Ian C. W. Hardy and Mark Briffa

Cambridge University Press. 2013. 357 Pp. ISBN 978-0-521-88710-6



Resource contests, the resolution of conflict over an indivisible resource through direct interaction, have long fascinated behavioural ecologists. In fact, the history of animal contest research and the history of behavioural ecology itself are thoroughly intertwined. This point is elegantly illustrated by the attention grabbing foreword to this book, written by the eminent Geoff Parker, which takes the form of an engaging personal account of the history of our theoretical understanding of the logic of animal conflict. This foreword, and the preface by the editors that follows, sets the tone for the rest of the book, emphasizing the key place for animal contest research in the broader context of behavioural ecology, in particular the interplay between theory and data that characterizes the field. Given the long and storied history of the area combined with the diversity and productivity of recent research, it is surprising that the topic of animal contests has not received the full book treatment in over two decades. *Animal Contests* thus represents a timely and welcome contribution.

Unlike previous books on the topic, *Animal Contests* is an edited volume, comprised of chapters written by a

collection of leaders in the field. The editors have done a commendable job pulling together an authoritative and diverse author list. The book can be subdivided into two basic sections. The first four chapters deal with the underlying theory and analysis of animal contests, beginning with a general introduction to the topic, before reviewing the modeling of dyadic contests, models of multiparty contests and finally a guide to the analysis of empirical contest data. The primary theoretical focus of *Animal Contests* is in understanding the process of assessment and decision-making during a fight. What information do animals gather prior to and during a contest and how is this information used to make strategic and tactical decisions while fighting? Each of these introductory chapters touches on issues germane to this overall theme. All four of these chapters are important contributions and will be valuable for anyone interested in animal contests or aggression more generally. In particular Chapter 2 by Hanna Kokko summarizing the models of assessment in dyadic contests is essential reading for those who wish to grasp this challenging theoretical literature. The fourth chapter on the analysis of contest data, by Mark Briffa and others, will also be extremely useful for empiricists, especially those seeking to collect or analyze contest data for the first time. The second section of the book is comprised of 11 chapters each focusing on a particular taxonomic group, reviewing the empirical literature on contest behaviour in those animals. The chapters cover in turn: crustaceans, spiders, butterflies, hymenopteran insects, beetles, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, ungulates and interstate war in humans. To varying degrees, these empirical chapters tie back to the theoretical chapters before them and share their focus on assessment and decision-making. A nice feature of these taxon specific chapters is that many topics within the animal contest literature tend to have been addressed in particular animal group. For instance, much of the work on display-only, non-contact contests has been done in butterflies, while beetles have been a key group for research into weaponry. Obviously there is overlap in subject matter between the taxon specific chapters, but on the whole, the chapters tend to take on unique topics focusing on the questions that have been closely examined in that particular animal group. This gives each chapter a distinct feel when reading the book in sequence. These sorts of patterns and trends become really clear once assembled into a cross-species review like this. For me, some of the standout taxon specific chapters include the review of contests in crustaceans by Mark Briffa and the chapter on fish fighting by Ryan Earley and Yuying Hsu. I think that part of the reason these chapters were especially illuminating owes to the particular importance that these animals have had in animal contest research. All of the empirical chapters have valuable insights to share and ought to be read by anyone interested in the behaviour of that particular animal group. *Animal Contests* devotes a substantial portion of its pages to the research on invertebrates and exothermic vertebrates, indicative of these animals important role in the empirical development of the animal contest literature. It is a nice change of pace to read a behavioural ecology text that devotes so much space to these animals, which historically have received less attention than mammals and birds. However, I do think that an additional chapter on contests in non-ungulate mammals would have been a worthwhile addition to round out the taxonomic diversity to some degree. In the same vein, the only treatment of human behaviour is in the context of interstate warfare, a fascinating topic to be sure, however an additional chapter on the subject of single combat in humans, especially as it pertains to assessment and decision-making would have been an interesting addition to this otherwise comprehensive volume. The book concludes with a final prospectus chapter by the editors (along with Sophie Mowles), which lights the path forward in animal contest research and argues for the continuing importance for work on animal contests within behavioural ecology more generally.

In terms of layout, I was pleased to find complete citations with the authors' names embedded in the text, rather than numbered citations or footnotes. Furthermore, each chapter has its own dedicated reference section. Collectively, these attributes ensure that each chapter is a valuable reference in its own right. Anyone interested in finding the literature on aggressive behaviour in a particular taxon will find the relevant chapter in this book invaluable. The book contains several wonderful photos of the animals being discussed. Unfortunately, the value of the photos is somewhat diminished by the use of an awkward "colour plates" section in the middle of the book, with only black and white pictures embedded in the text. The book is clearly written throughout, and despite being a multi-author volume, maintains a consistent enough style and tone to make reading it as one cohesive work a pleasurable experience. Nevertheless, each chapter does contain enough background and detail to be comprehensible as a standalone review for a reader interested in one topic or species in particular. Because of the inherently interesting nature of the subject matter, I think this book would make a worthwhile read for anyone interested in animal social behaviour. It would certainly be appropriate for a senior level undergraduate or graduate course on the topic of animal conflict or aggression. I think that graduate students and researchers working on social behaviour will find this book to be an engaging read and a valuable reference.

Adam R. Reddon
Department of Biology
McGill University

POEM TO JOHN H CROOK

John H. Crook was a notable ethologist and is often credited as the initiator of Behavioral Ecology via his work on weaver birds.

Clara B. Jones is a retired scientist, currently practicing poetry in Asheville, North Carolina, USA. As a woman of color, she writes about social relations and the moral dimensions of power.

Exiting The Core Dialog (or, Default To Pseudoscience)
dedicated to the late John Hurrell Crook (1930-2011)

You were my Guru
sharing an elevator from Toronto to Bristol
Social Ecology's Père.
Restless wife

leaving you imploding, reinventing
a rugged Quelea
a monk of fieldwork.
Did Africa loom?

Did you miss reading journals?
Did your colleagues write?
Did you feel manly
or was that all in the past?

Before the Four Purposes supplanted Science
exceeding Dharma's proscriptions
filling every void
now seeking a different balance

compelled like other stoics to forfeit Natural History
for Moksha manifest as enlightenment
and for the spiritual wealth of Artha
no longer weighed in the currency of papers and books

a domain of joy as intentional Kama
Charvaka appealing to lone materialists
not at ease with magic and gods
switching from fact-finder to spiritualist

alien in the halls of Cambridge.
A wife defined by roles to others
categories like tributaries always moving, changing
sometimes in random directions

or immeasurable and ill-defined
engineering the ecosystem of kin, friends, acquaintances
as the Falémé nurtures soils and microbes
power over living things and things not living

abiotic and biotic
landscapes rugged as the slopes of Kouroudiako
where a wife near Saraya knows abandoning her fate
would mean death or silence

not the freedom felt by your wife leaving Bristol for London
then more popular than Stilton
dancing in halls when once she served port to your peers.
Her agency yanked you from worthy colleagues

no further prospects save surrendering Self
as another form of contract
left by your woman to conquer new demons.
With or without Ego, cause and effect prevail.

The act of writing is a conduit to Truth
that you abandoned for another sort of insight
turning inward to reject the landscapes of probabilities
odds offering few direct rewards

propelling you instead behind a veil of contemplation
seeking your non-self rather than a higher self
a mien without craving
if that state is possible

beyond mere abstinence from pleasure
not pleasure but abstinence from the satisfactions of the unconscious
relief from responsibility
trading arrogance for enlightenment or another quality of knowing

not seeking facts, equations but received integrity
seated alone on a mat.
A body crafted for work
Gramsci built for hegemony

von Frisch built for bees
Strassmann built for microbes
Dickinson built for poetry
wired for thought expansive and novel

Seewiesen encompassing Max Planck and Munich.
Your body performing intentionally
in Morocco and the Himalayas
willing the unity of Science and Buddhism

removed from the certainties of reductionism
leaving you to walk unclothed across ice
at a time when you needed the sun's thaw
striking a bargain with Sheng Yen

to wear the rough robe of celibacy
though you never extinguished desire
recalling craving controlled by midbrain
competing with frontal cortex for control.

Clara B. Jones

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

If you are interested in receiving *and* reviewing any of these books, please email the newsletter editor: andreas.svensson@lnu.se. Please include postal address. The due date for the review is Feb 28, 2016.

The following titles are available for review from Royal Society publishing

Title	Editors
The sociality-health-fitness nexus in animal societies	Peter M Kappeler and Charles L Nunn

The following titles are available for review from Oxford University Press

Title	Author
Aquatic Entomology	Lancaster & Downes
Dog Behaviour, Evolution, and Cognition 2e (December 2014)	Miklos
Free-Ranging Dogs and Wildlife Conservation	Gompper
Plant Behaviour and Intelligence (August 2014)	Trewavas
Quantitative Genetics in the Wild	Charmantier, Garant, & Kruuk
Shallow Subterranean Habitats	Culver & Pipan
The Evolution of Insect Mating Systems	Shuker & Simmons
The Evolution of Sex Determination	Beukeboom & Perrin

The following titles are available for review from Cambridge University Press

Title	Author
Animal Communication Theory	Stegmann
Animal Teeth and Human Tools	Turner II
Anthropological Perspectives on Tooth Morphology	Scott
Behavioral Genetics of the Mouse 1 Genetics of Behavioral Phenotypes	Crusio
Behavioral Genetics of the Mouse 2 Models of Neurobehavioral Disorders	Pietropaolo
Bioarchaeological and Forensic Perspectives on Violence	Martin
Biosocial Becomings	Ingold
Causes and Consequences of Human Migration	Crawford
Cephalopod Cognition	Darmaillacq
Divided Brains	Rogers
Evolutionary Biology and Conservation of Titis, Sakis and Uacaris	Veiga
Evolving Human Nutrition	Ulijaszek
Extractive Industries and Ape Conservation	Arcus Foundation
From Clone to Bone	Asher
Giraffe	Dagg
How the Snake Lost its Legs	Held, Jr
Human Evolution	Finlay
Human Identity and Identification	Gowland
Mammoths and the Environment	Ukraintseva
Marmot Biology	Armitage
Oxytocin, Vasopressin and Related Peptides in the Regulation of Behavior	Choleris
Passive Acoustic Monitoring of Cetaceans	Zimmer
Pheromones and Animal Behavior	Wyatt
Play, Playfulness, Creativity and Innovation	Bateson
Primate Communication	Liebal
Primate Tourism	Russon
The Boreal Owl	Korpimäki
The Foragers of Point Hope	Hilton
The Politics of Species	Corbey
The Politics of Species	Corbey
The Social Life of Greylag Geese	Scheiber
Tool Use in Animals	Sanz
Tooth Development in Human Evolution and Bioarchaeology	Hillson
Understanding Evolution	Kampourakis
Wild Cultures	Boesch