



Master thesis project available

Trade-off: Investment in growth vs. sexual traits expression

The limit of resources is a familiar problem: money spent for one purpose cannot be spent on something else simultaneously.

There are also limits to the amount of energy available to animals. Even if there is unlimited food available, an individual cannot consume and digest an unlimited amount of food. The available energy must therefore be divided between different functions, such as growth and reproduction. Similar to the money example, the energy invested in growth cannot be put into reproduction at the same time – a trade-off arises.

In this project we are interested if there are individual differences in the allocation of resources. The question is:

Do the different individuals invest their energy differently?

To answer this question, data on zebra finches bi-directionally selected for three different behaviours are available. The aim of this thesis is to analyse plumage scores, growth data and photos of these zebra finch selection lines.

If you like to dive into exciting data, then please send an e-mail to

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