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Why behaviour is key to understanding many non-behavioural traits

My research focuses on animal coloration, from mechanistic, functional, evolutionary and macroecological perspectives. Some of these perspectives do not require behavioural studies, but an understanding of animal behaviour turns out to be important for all of them. Although coloration is not a behavioural trait, it interacts with behaviour in myriad ways, some obvious, others less so. I illustrate this point through my personal research journey, and why I keep coming back to studying behaviour. This journey involves forays into several other disciplines, including bioinspired materials. Even from these other disciplinary perspectives, behaviour can provide critical insights. This applies not only to coloration, but to many other non-behavioural traits.