**Understanding terminology in animal personality research**

Dear researcher,

Do animals have personality? Is the behaviour of animals repeatable? Whether you have ever worked on these questions or not, we would like to hear your opinion about the terminology used in the field of “animal personality”. With this survey, we aim to collect data for a review quantifying the diversity of interpretations of the conceptual and statistical terminologies used in this field. The collected data will be converted to percentages and used for quantitative comparisons.

The survey takes less than 5 minutes and is anonymous – you do not need to register and we do not ask you to provide your name. The summarized results may be published, and answers will ultimately be available to anyone who wants to use them. This project is being conducted by Dr. Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar (Bielefeld University), Dr. Maria Moiron (CEFE-CNRS Montpellier), and Dr. Petri T. Niemelä (LMU Munich).

Please, we would appreciate if you would circulate the link to anyone that could be interested. In the event of any concern or question about this survey, please contact alfredo.tojar@gmail.com.

Thank you very much in advance for your help.  
  
With best wishes,  
Alfredo Sánchez-Tójar, Maria Moiron, and Petri Niemelä

**Survey**

*Fields marked with an \* are required.*

**PLEASE CHECK:**

*I hereby confirm that I understand the above and that my anonymous answers may be summarised, circulated and published. \**

**Personal Information**

1. At what stage of your research career are you? \*

* Master student (or earlier stage)
* PhD researcher
* Early-career researcher (i.e., have completed their doctorate degree within the past 5 years)
* Senior researcher (i.e., have completed their doctorate degree more than 5 years ago)
* I am not a researcher

1. Have you ever worked or published (lead author and/or co-author) in questions related to “animal personality”? \*

* Yes
* No
* I am not sure

1. What country are you currently working in? The country of origin will be only used to assess the spread of the survey.\*

**Survey**

1. What is your preferred definition of **“animal personality”?** Please, select the option that applies from the following set of definitions derived from the literature.\*
2. Consistent between-individual differences in behaviour across time and/or contexts
3. Consistent between-individual differences in whole suites of correlated behaviours across time and/or contexts
4. Between-individual differences in behavioural tendencies across contexts and within-individual consistency over time
5. Variation among individuals in the intercept of their behavioural reaction norm
6. Within-individual and between-individual consistency in behaviours across time and/or ecological contexts
7. None of the above (specify yours):

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. What does the term **“animal personality”** represent biologically? \*
2. Limited phenotypic plasticity in behavioural expression in a sample of individuals
3. Individual differences in average behavioural expression in a sample of individuals
4. Both a) and b) are correct
5. I do not know the answer
6. None of the above (specify yours):

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. What does “**repeatability”** (i.e. the proportion of phenotypic variance explained by individual identity) commonly represents in the field of animal personality? \*
2. (Relative) amount of phenotypic plasticity in a sample of individuals
3. (Relative) amount of individual differences in average trait expression in a sample of individuals
4. Both a) and b) are correct
5. I do not know the answer
6. None of the above (specify yours):

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. What biological interpretation can one make when one only knows that group of individuals “A” expresses higher repeatability than a group of individuals “B”? \*
2. Group “A” expresses less plasticity in their trait expression than group “B”
3. Individuals differ more from each other in their average trait expression in group “A” than in group “B”
4. Both interpretations a) and b) can be made
5. Neither interpretations a) or b) can be made
6. I do not know the answer
7. I do not have enough information to answer

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. Does repeatability – as defined in question 3, provide an estimate of (behavioural) consistency and/or predictability?
   1. Yes
   2. No
   3. I do not know

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. Have you ever used a single measurement of behaviour(s) per individual when studying animal personality? \*  
   - Yes

- No

- N/A

Add any further comment, if needed:

1. Have you ever used (unpartitioned) phenotypic level data when studying animal personality? \*

- Yes

- Yes, but I was not aware of it when I used it

- No

- I do not know

- N/A

Add any further comment, if needed:

Please let us know if you have any other comments:

Thank you for filling in this survey!