**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 in the field of “animal personality”? \*

* Yes
* No

1. What country are you currently working in? The country of origin will be only used to assess the spread of the survey; leave blank if you prefer not to reveal this information.

**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):
8. What does the term **“animal personality”** represent biologically? \*
9. Limited individual plasticity in behavioural expression
10. Individual differences in average behavioural expression
11. Both a) and b) are correct
12. I do not know the answer
13. None of the above (specify yours):
14. What does “**repeatability”** (i.e. the proportion of phenotypic variance explained by individual identity) commonly refers to in the field of animal personality? \*
15. (Relative) degree of individual plasticity in a population
16. (Relative) degree of individual differences in average trait expression in a population
17. Both a) and b) are correct
18. I do not know the answer
19. None of the above (specify yours):
20. What does it mean when a group of individuals “A” expresses higher repeatability than a group of individuals “B”? \*
21. Individuals express less plasticity in their trait expression in group “A” than in group “B”
22. Individuals differ more from each other in their average trait expression in group “A” than in group “B”
23. Both a) and b) are correct
24. Neither a) nor b) are correct
25. I do not know the answer
26. Does repeatability – as defined in question 3, provide an estimate of individual (behavioural) consistency and/or predictability?\*
    1. Yes
    2. No
    3. I do not know
27. Have you ever used single measurements of behaviour(s) when studying animal personality? \*  
    - Yes

- No

- N/A

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

- Yes

- Yes, but not in the last 2 years (this option missing from the online version)

- No

- I do not know

- N/A

Thank you for filling in this survey! Please let us know if you have any other comments: