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Lecture Assignment 1

2024-09-05

1. If you were going to do this experiment, what would you improve?

Although soiled nesting materials were replaced between subjects, mice have great olfaction and likely were able to detect that a conspecific had been in a nesting box before them, which could lead to selection of that nesting box. It would have been better practice to entirely replace nesting boxes between subjects.

It also would have been interesting to have field mice restricted to breed in forest environments and vice versa, then test them in this experiment.

1. What benefit could animals have from habitat selection being an open genetic system?

If provided, learned behaviors from parent(s) are more likely to be applicable in the offspring's natal environment, therefore later selection for the same features of their natal habitat would benefit them.