



Figure 4: (a) Prevalence prior distributions empirically elicited for 40 animal properties. Parameters of the structured statistical model— $\phi$  and  $\gamma$ —reveal quantitative differences in beliefs about the prevalence of conceptually different types of properties (scatterplot). Inset plots show differences in shapes between biological properties (red, green, blue; bimodal) and accidental properties (orange, purple; unimodal). These differences give rise to the variability of interpretations of generic utterances. (b) Human interpretation of prevalence upon hearing a generic compared with the  $L_1$  model posterior predictive. Participants and the model interpret generics differently for different property types: Generics of biological properties (red, blue, green) have strong interpretations while generics of accidental properties (purple, orange) are weaker. Error bars denote Bayesian 95% credible intervals.