

Individual-level causes and population-level consequences of variation in fitness in an Alpine rodent

Timothée Bonnet

Department of evolutionary biology and environmental studies (IEU)



**University of
Zurich^{UZH}**

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- Lukas Keller
- Barbara Tschirren
- Arpat Ozgul
- Marc Kéry
- Jarrod Hadfield



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- Eelke Jongejans
- Pirmin Nietlisbach
- Philipp Becker
- Judith Bachmann





Phenotypic variation within population



Phenotypic variation within population



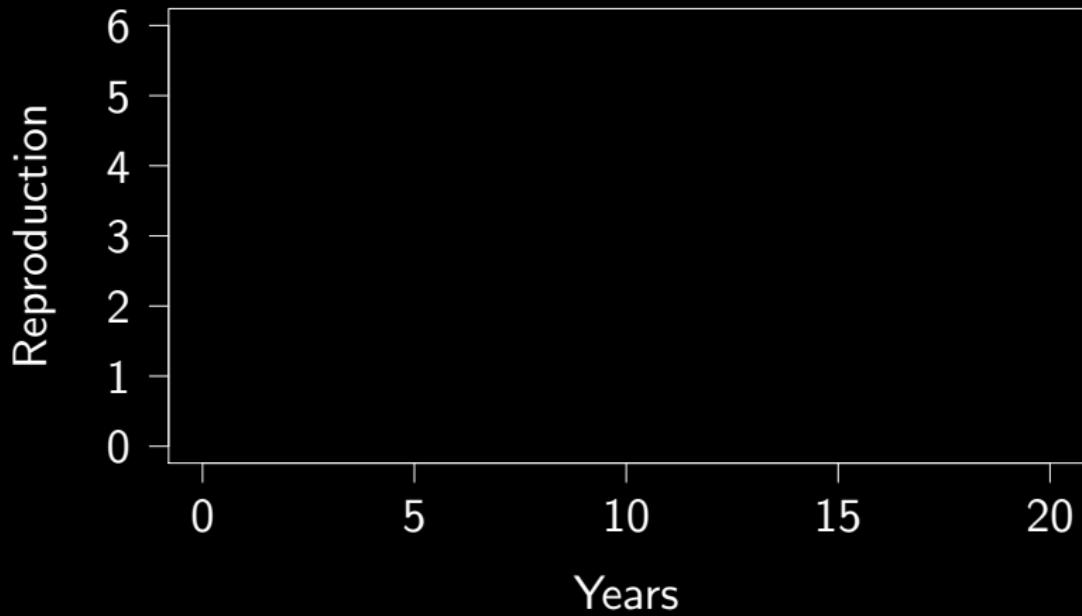
Fitness variation

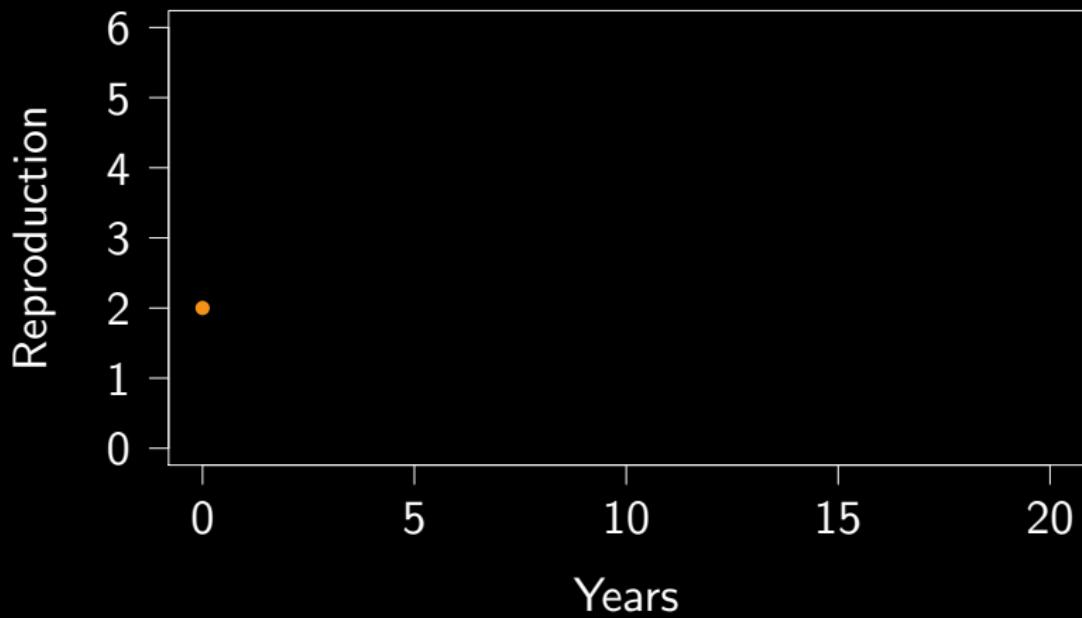


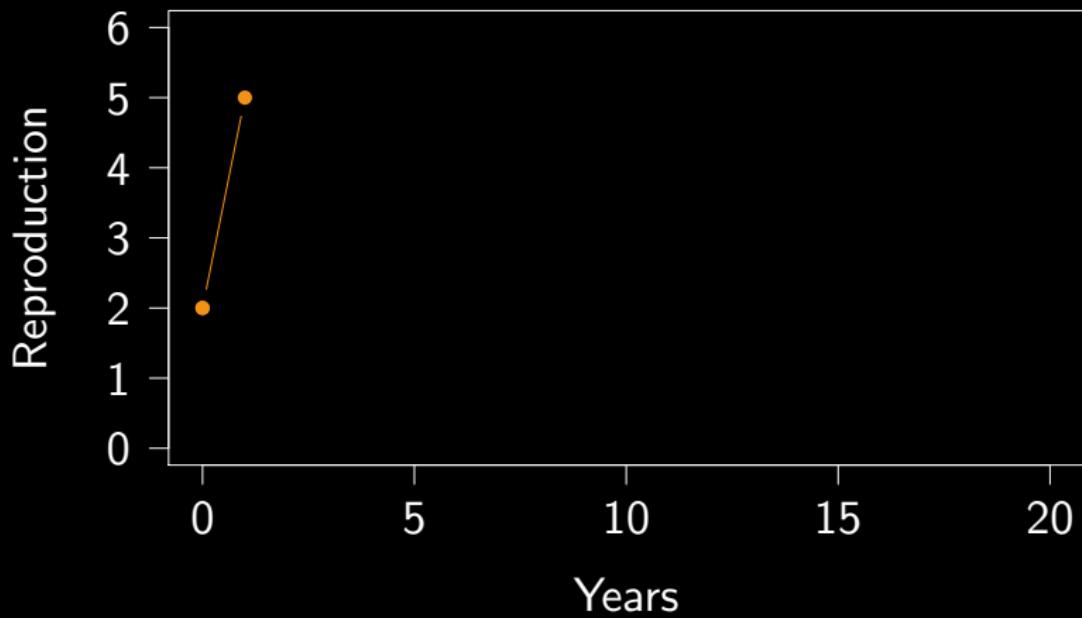
What is fitness?

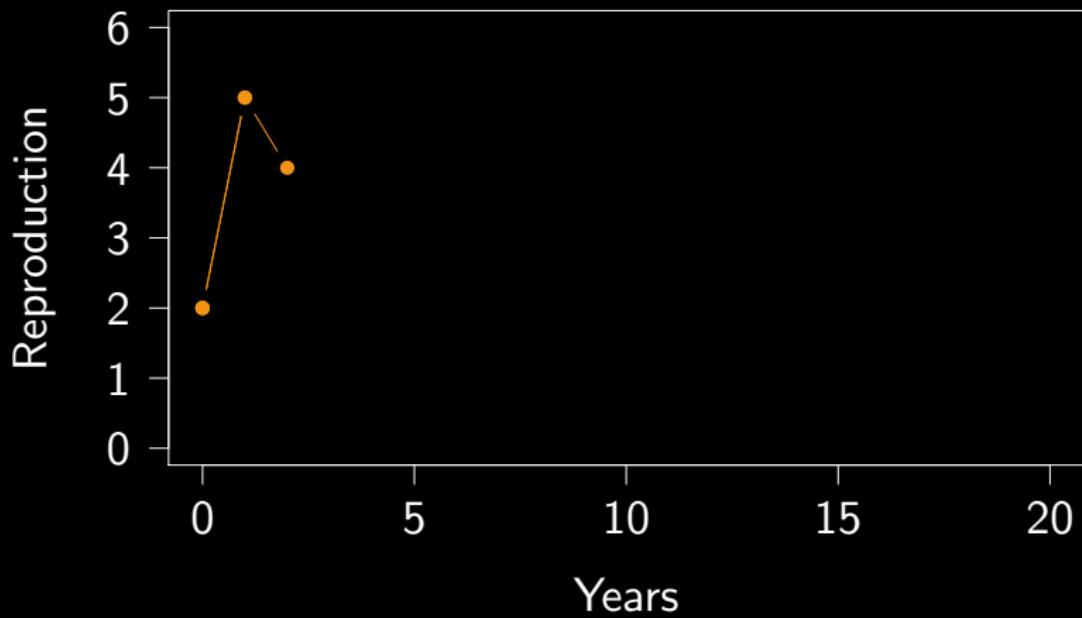
The expected relative contribution of an individual to the next generation

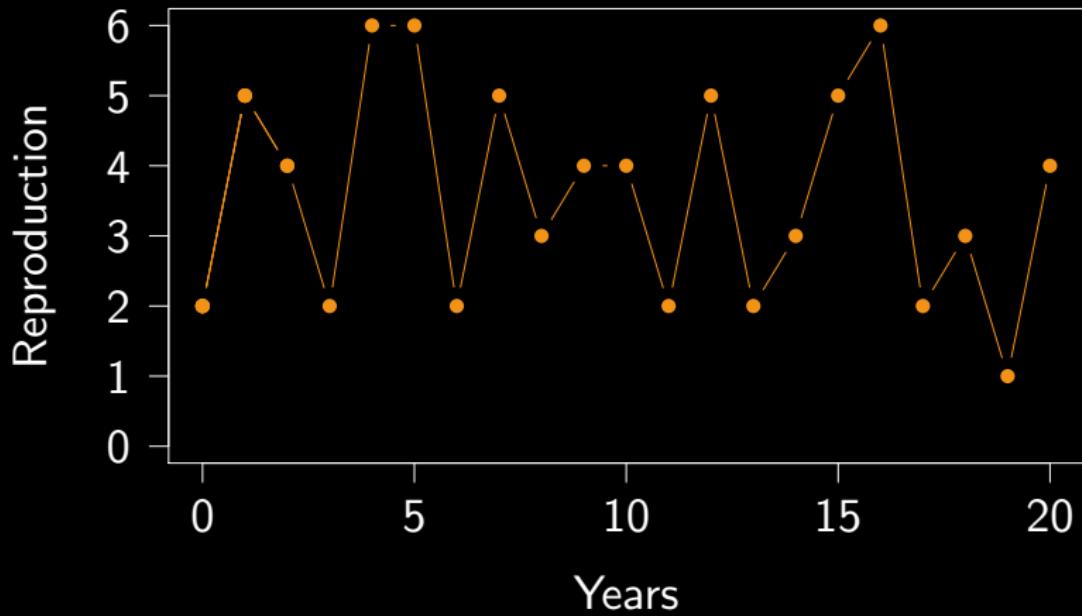
**Chance or fate? Why do survival
and fertility vary?**

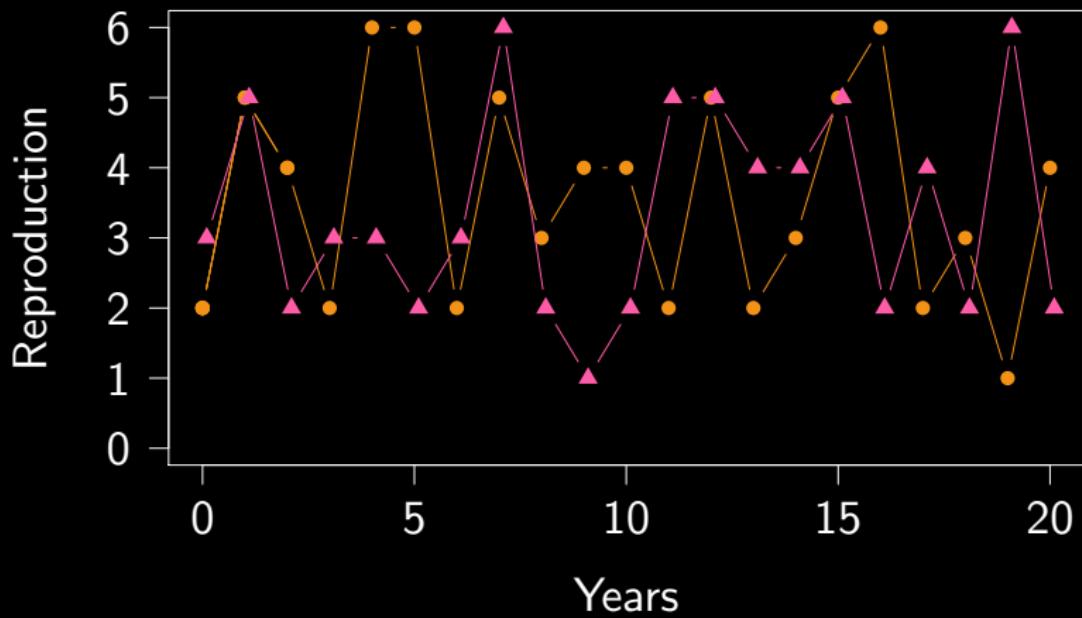


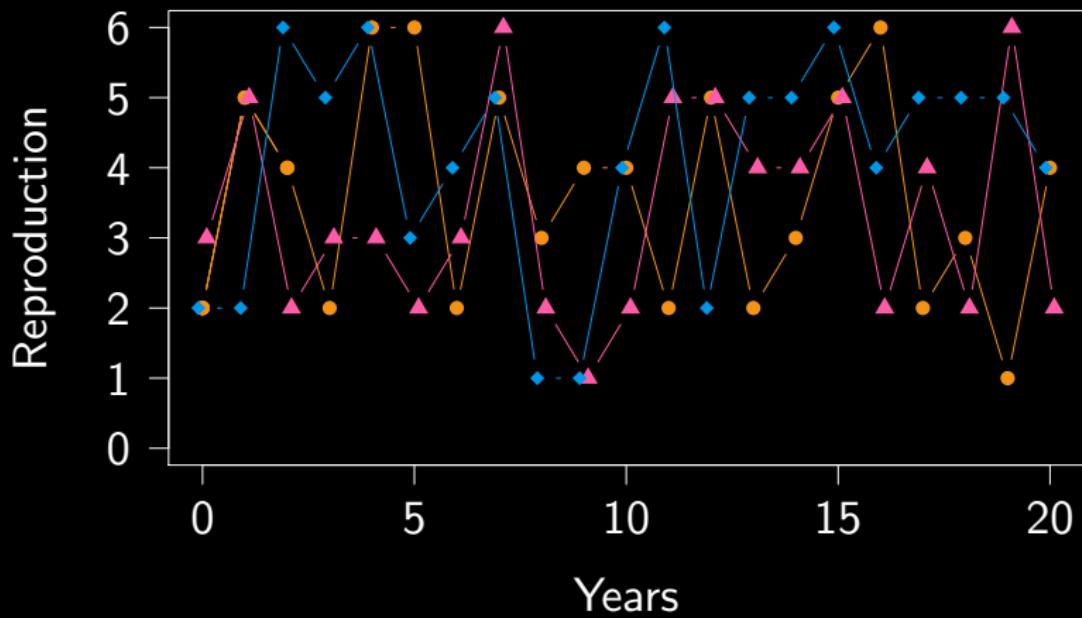




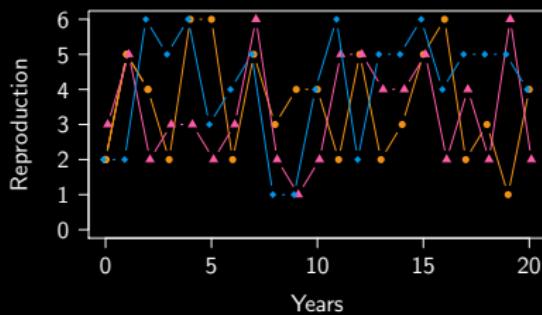




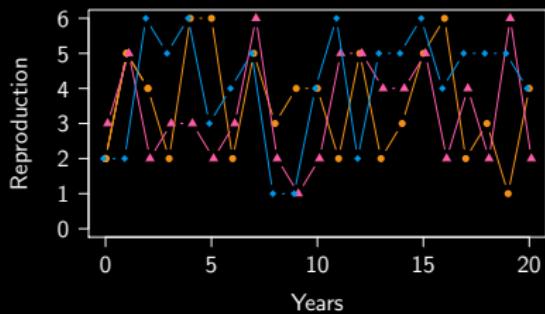




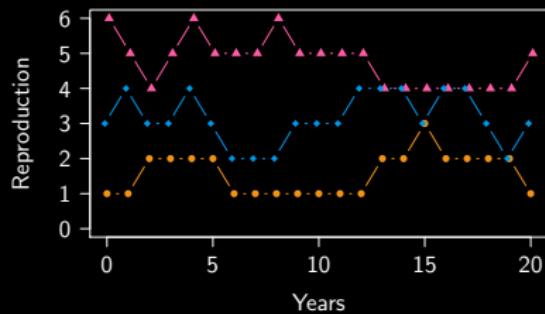
One dice theory



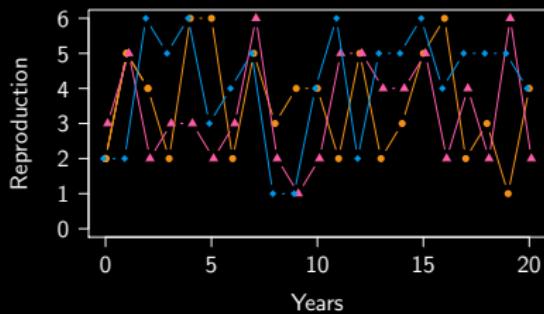
One dice theory



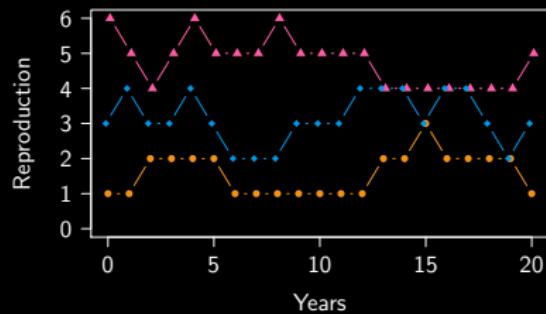
Real pattern



One dice theory



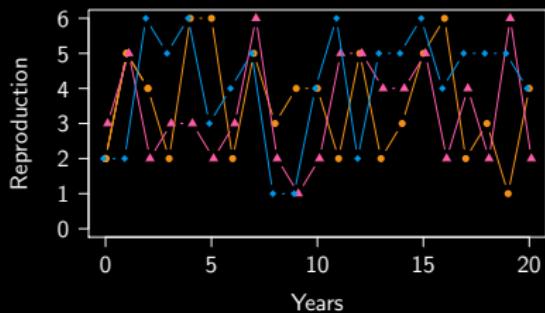
Real pattern



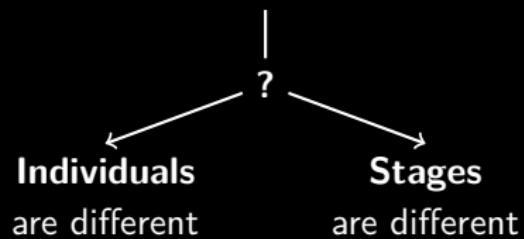
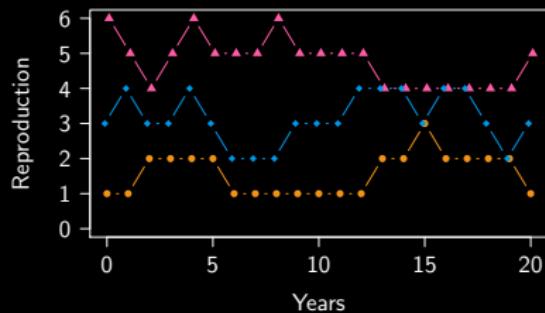
Individuals
are different

?

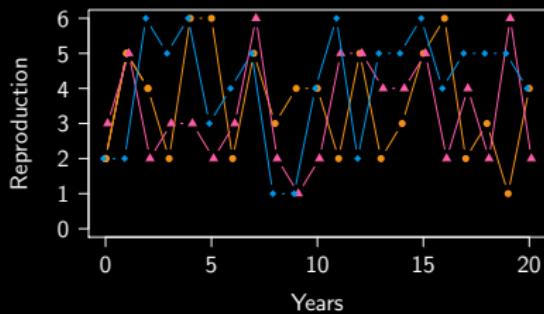
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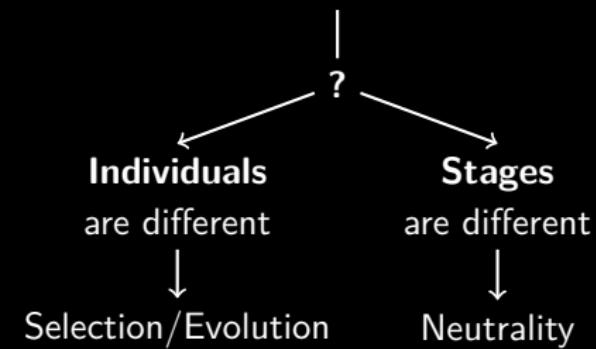
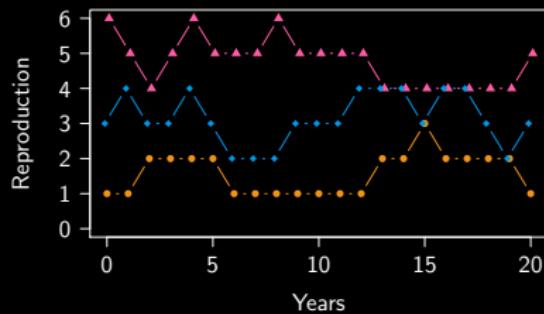
Real pattern



One dice theory



Real pattern



The neutral theory

PNAS

Neutral theory for life histories and individual variability in fitness components

Ulrich Karl Steiner^{a,b,1} and Shripad Tuljapurkar^a

^aDepartment of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA 94305; and ^bInstitut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale U1001, Université Paris Descartes, 75014 Paris, France

Edited* by Burton H. Singer, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, and approved February 3, 2012 (received for review December 3, 2010)

Individuals within populations can differ substantially in their life spans and their lifetime reproductive success, but such realized fitness components are often highly correlated. This suggests that stochastic variation in fitness components is small enough to be negligible, and that this stochastic variation has significant implications for both ecological and evolutionary studies.

Neutral matrix method

		next year		
		1	2	3
1	1	0.9	0.08	0.02
	2	0	0.7	0.3
3	0	0.2	0.8	

No variation in fitness among individuals

The neutral theory

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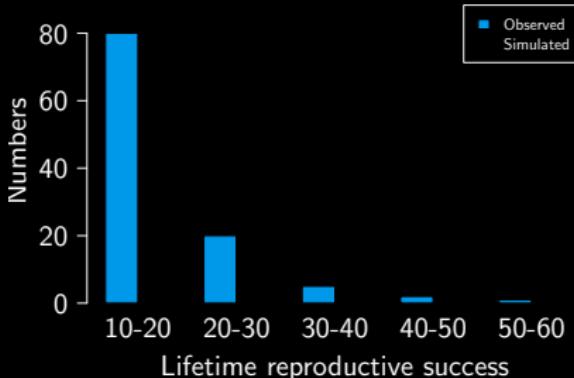
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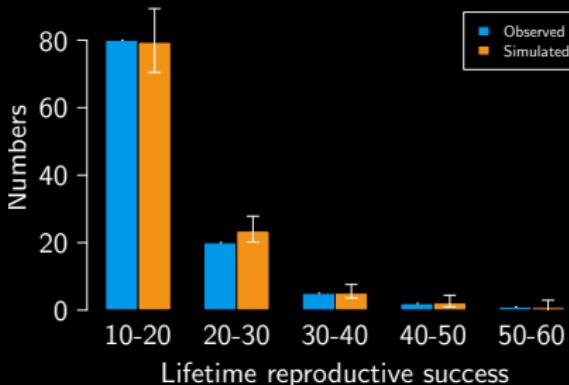
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Individuals within populations can differ substantially in their life spans and their lifetime reproductive success, but such realized fitness components are often highly correlated. This correlation is often interpreted as evidence for selection, but it may also arise from stochastic variation in individual life spans and reproductive success. We show here that the observed correlation between life spans and reproductive success is consistent with a neutral model in which individuals have equal fitness components and no selection acts on them. Our results indicate that stochastic variation in individual life spans and reproductive success is a key source of individual variability in fitness components and that this stochastic variation has significant implications for both ecological and evolutionary studies.

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No variation in fitness among individuals

Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

Mixed model method &
Quantitative genetics



Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

- No significant differences between individuals

Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

Journal of Animal Ecology

Journal of Animal Ecology 2010, **79**, 436–444



doi: 10.1111/j.1365-2656.2009.01653.x

Dynamic heterogeneity and life history variability in the kittiwake

Ulrich K. Steiner^{1*}, Shripad Tuljapurkar¹ and Steven Hecht Orzack²

Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

- No significant differences between individuals

Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

- Individual performances are

Oikos 122: 739–753, 2013

doi: 10.1111/j.1600-0706.2012.20532.x

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Subject Editor: Matthew Symonds. Accepted 7 June 2012

Looking for a needle in a haystack: inference about individual fitness components in a heterogeneous population

Emmanuelle Cam, Olivier Gimenez, Russell Alpizar-Jara, Lise M. Aubry, Matthieu Authier, Evan G. Cooch, David N. Koons, William A. Link, Jean-Yves Monnat, James D. Nichols, Jay J. Rotella, Jeffrey A. Royle and Roger Pradel

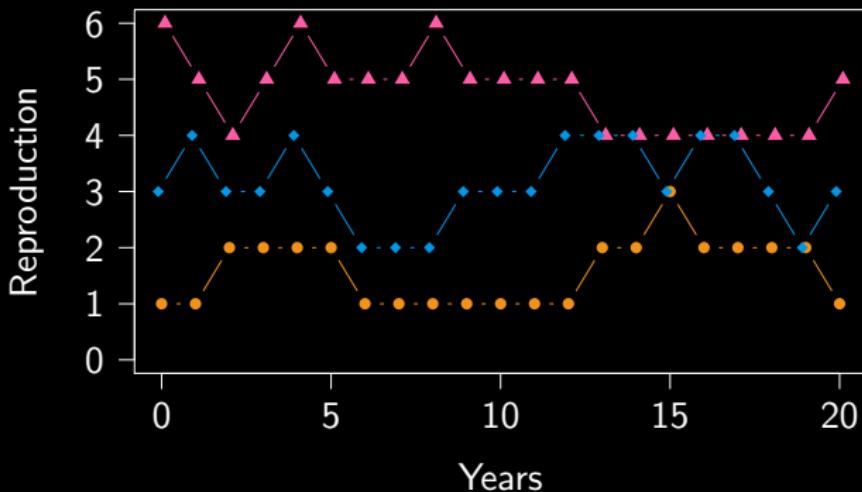
Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

- No significant differences between individuals
- ... because of stage structure

Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

- Individual performances are repeatable



Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

- No significant differences between individuals
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Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

- Individual performances are repeatable
- ... fitness traits are heritable

Conflicting results

Neutral matrix method

- No significant differences between individuals
- ... because of stage structure
- ... very little and due to chance only

Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

- Individual performances are repeatable
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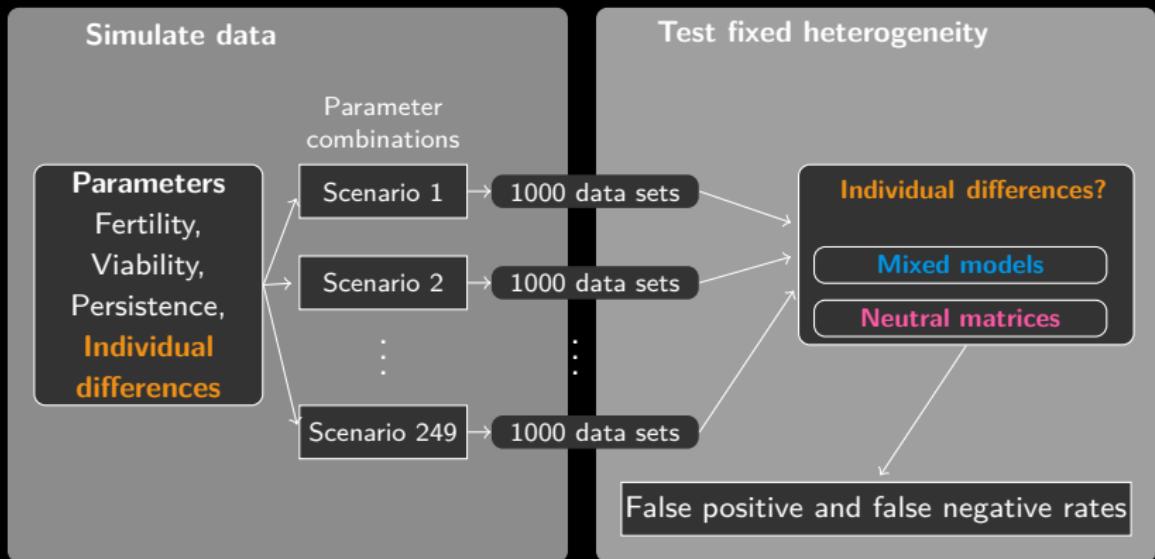
Mixed model method & Quantitative genetics

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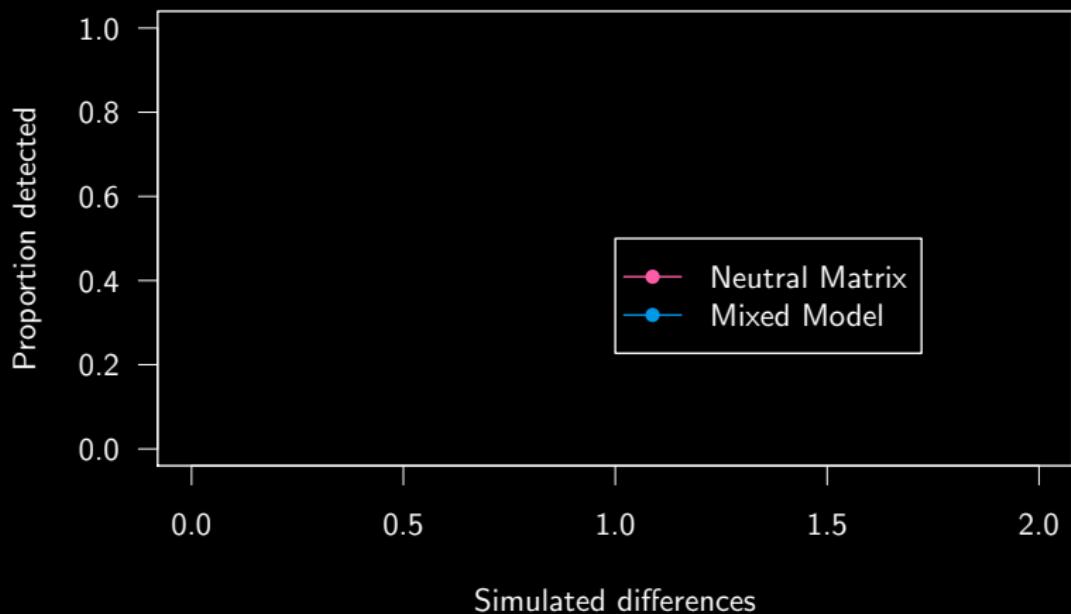
Why?

- Neutral matrix method =false negative?
- Mixed model method =false positive?

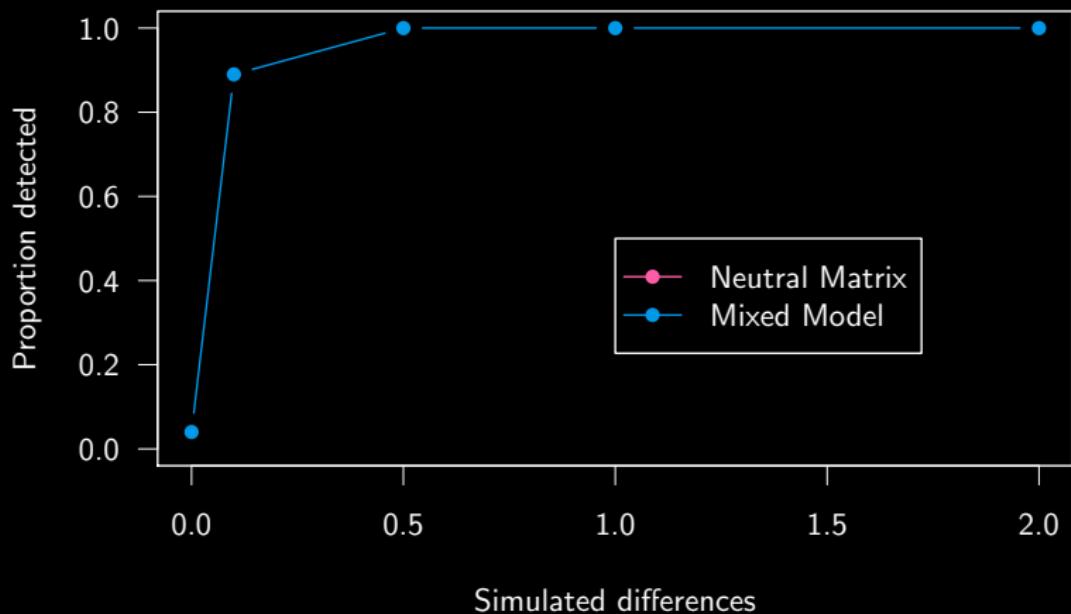
Method



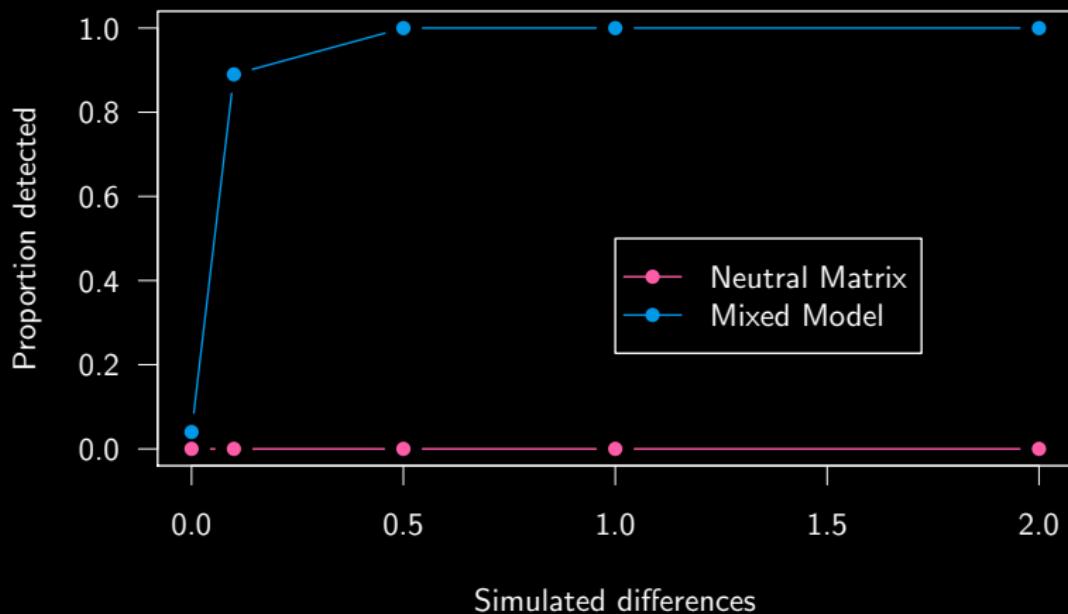
Results



Results



Results



Conclusion

Why conflicting methods?

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→ Individual differences in fitness components are common

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Implications

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Implications

- Phenotypic variation in fitness → opportunity for selection

Conclusion

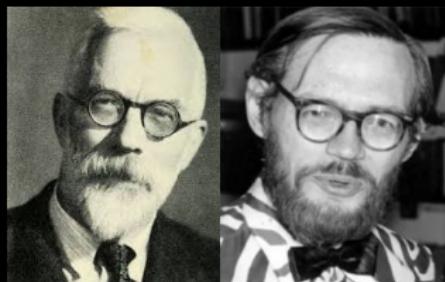
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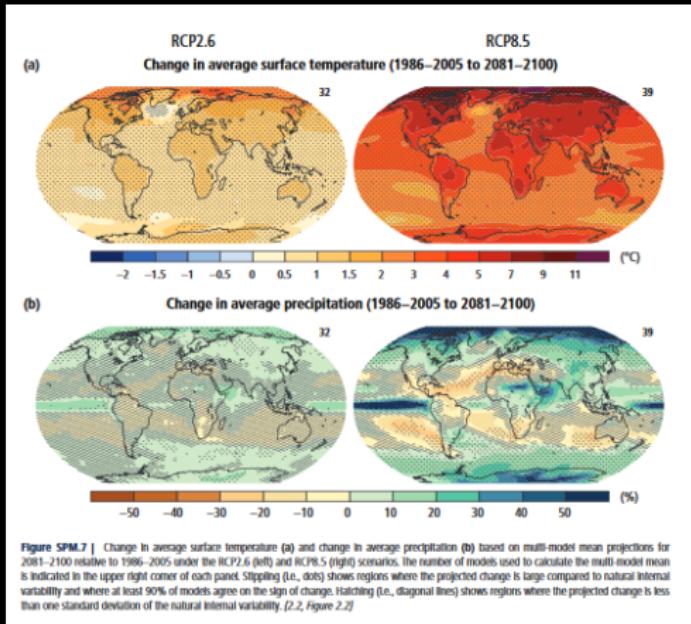
Implications

- Phenotypic variation in fitness → opportunity for selection
- Heritability of fitness = evolution



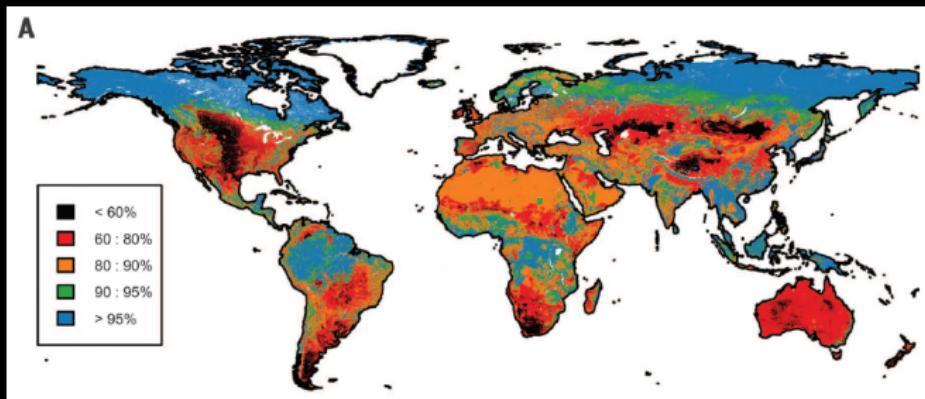
R.A. Fisher G. Price

Evolution in a changing world



Intergovernmental panel on climate change 5th Report (2014)

Evolution in a changing world



Newbold & al. (2016). Has land use pushed terrestrial biodiversity beyond the planetary boundary? A global assessment. Science, 353

Evolution in a changing world

Ecological and Evolutionary Responses to Recent Climate Change

Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics

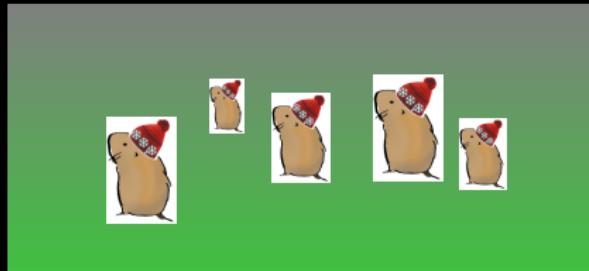
Vol. 37: 637-669 (Volume publication date December 2006)

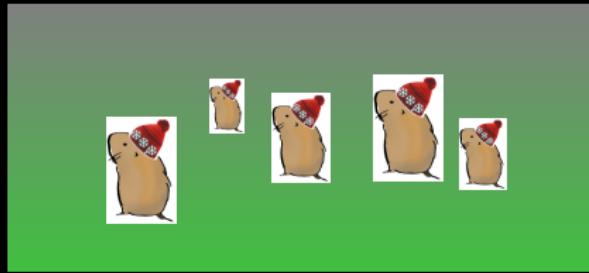
First published online as a Review in Advance on August 24, 2006

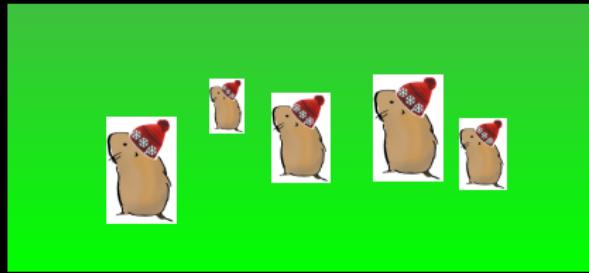
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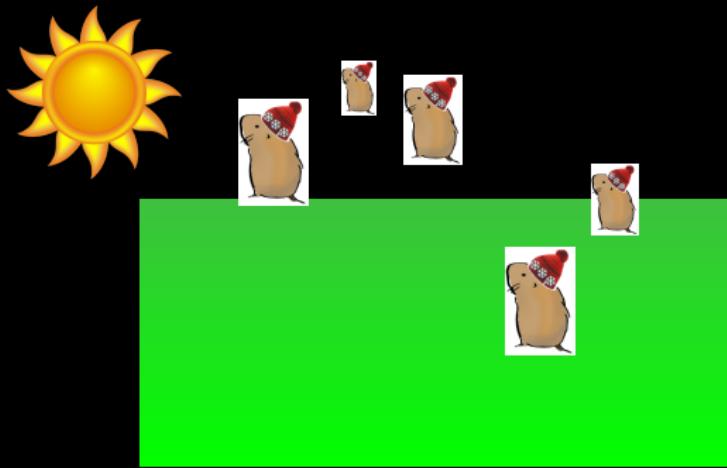
Camille Parmesan

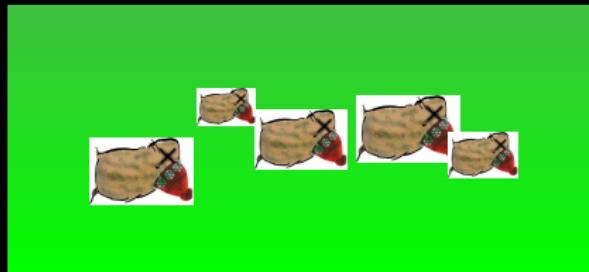
Section of Integrative Biology, University of Texas, Austin, Texas 78712; email:
parmesan@mail.utexas.edu

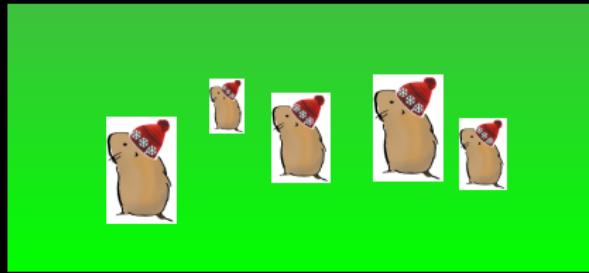
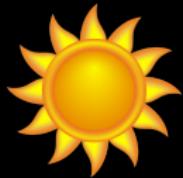


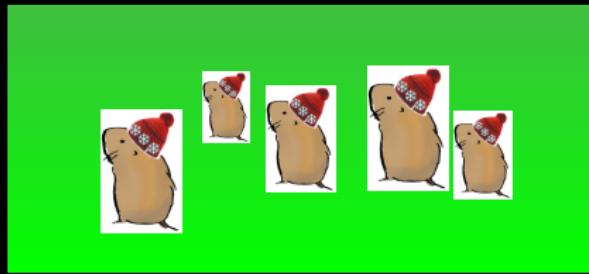
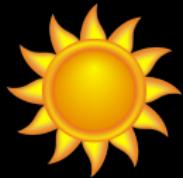


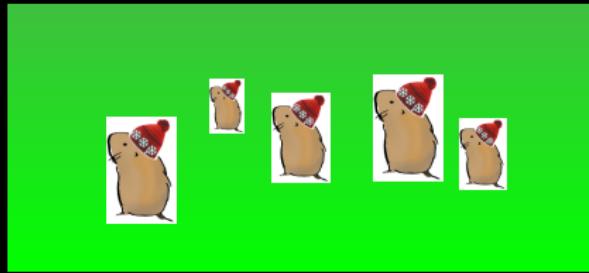


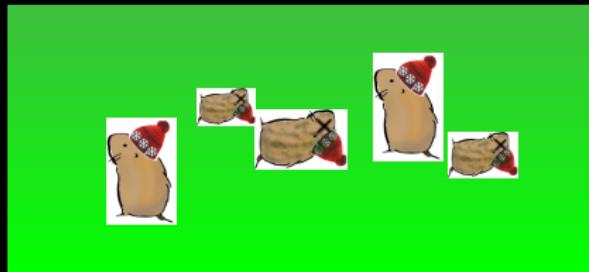


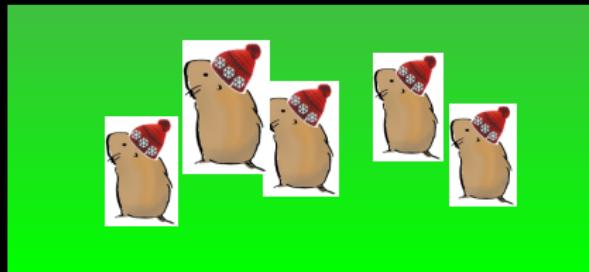




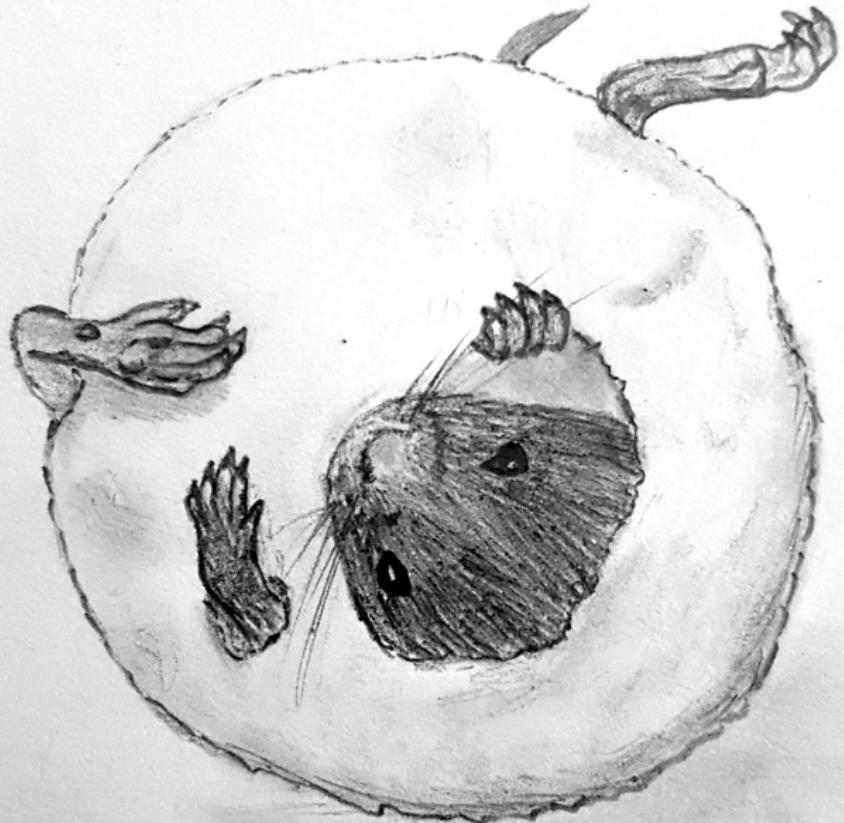








Evolution or plasticity? What drives phenotypic change?



Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*, Martins 1842)

- NOT white



Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*, Martins 1842)

- NOT white
- Rock-dweller



Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*, Martins 1842)

- NOT white
- Rock-dweller
- 30-45g



Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*, Martins 1842)

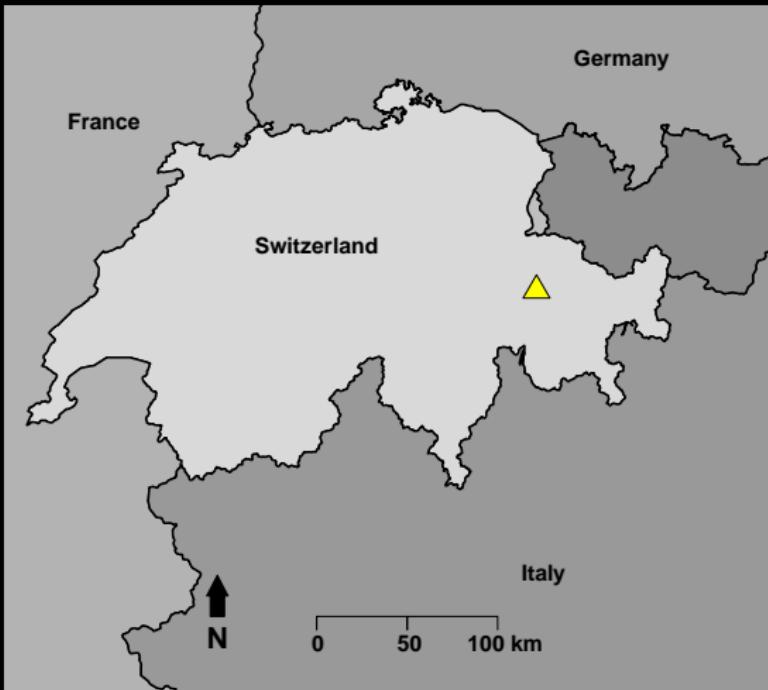
- NOT white
- Rock-dweller
- 30-45g
- 10-14cm long + 5-8cm tail



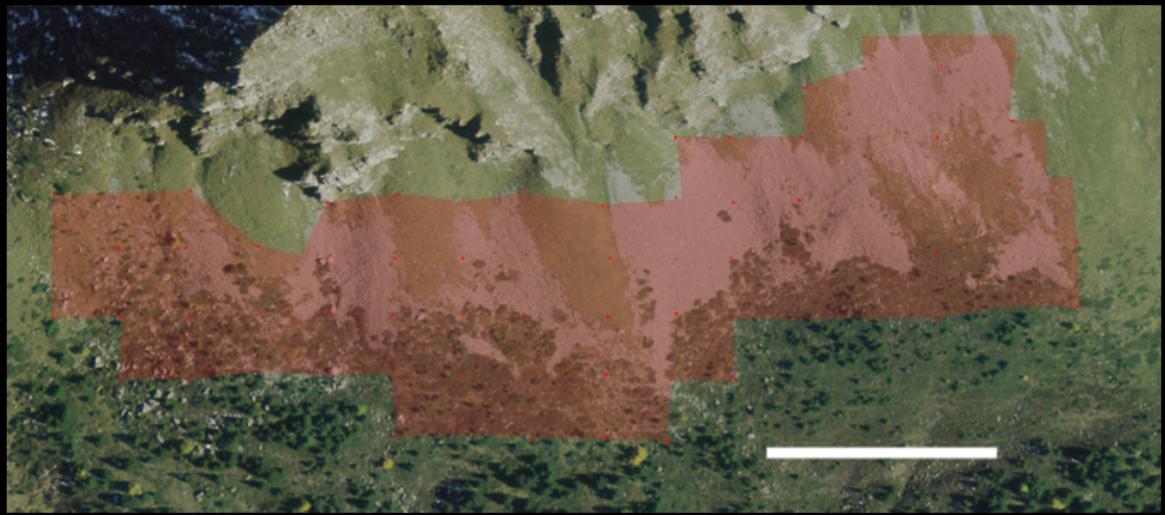
Snow vole (*Chionomys nivalis*, Martins 1842)

- NOT white
- Rock-dweller
- 30-45g
- 10-14cm long + 5-8cm tail
- Slow life pace













What we measure

What we measure

- Morphology
 - Body mass
 - Body length
 - Tail length



What we measure

- Morphology
 - Body mass
 - Body length
 - Tail length
- Capture/Recaptures
 - Death/emigration
 - Location



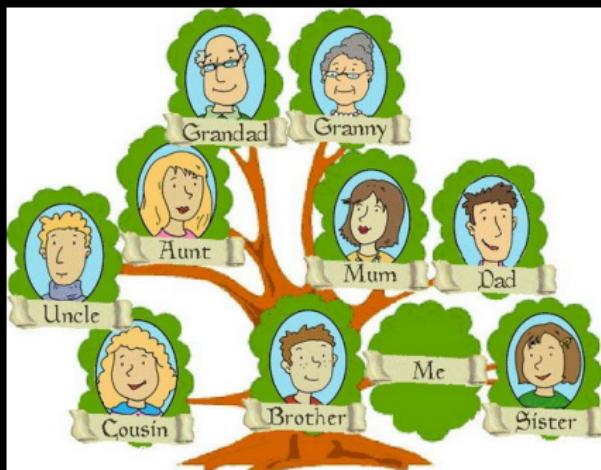
What we measure

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- DNA
 - 20 “neutral” markers
 - Sex identification
 - Any genotyping



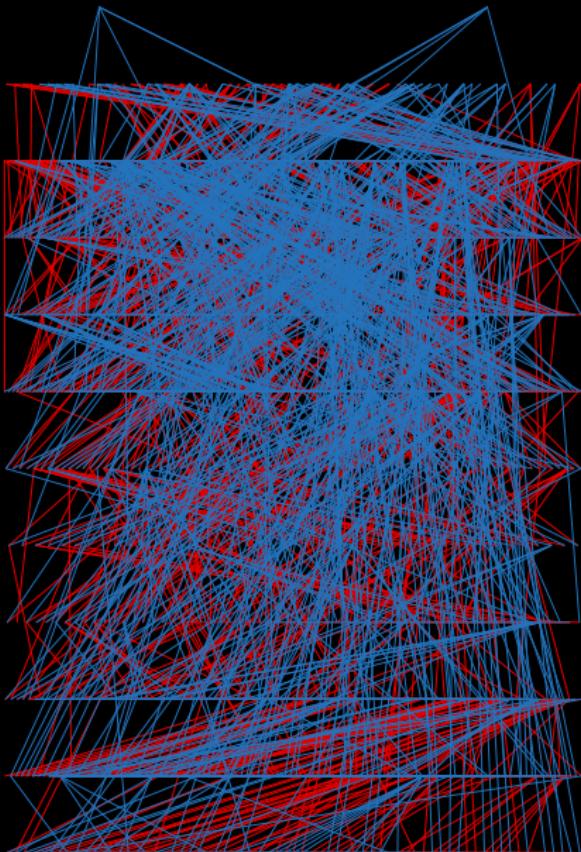
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Are snow vole evolving? Why?

**Do selection and evolution
fluctuate?**

What is left?
