



**Association
for the
Study of
Animal
Behaviour**



ASAB Easter 2015

Durham University, 18th-20th March



BEHAVIOUR, ECOLOGY & EVOLUTION RESEARCH CENTRE

University of Sheffield; ndosremedios@hotmail.co.uk

Title: Funded access to consumables, facilities and training for UK environmental researchers

Abstract: At the NERC Biomolecular Analysis Facility, we offer funded support for genetic studies of the natural world, such as behavioural ecology and population structure. Any UK researcher can apply for access to our facilities, consumables, training and expertise for projects within NERCs remit. More info at: <http://nbaf.nerc.ac.uk/>.

DOWNES, ELIZABETH; Richards, Shane

Durham University; e.k.h.downes@dur.ac.uk

Title: Do plants behave too? Investigating offspring abortion and sibling rivalry in the English bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*)

Abstract: Plants often portray behaviours that are more commonly studied in animals, such as offspring abortion and sibling rivalry. In my MSc project I study seed development in English bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), which has led me to investigate the limitation mechanisms behind seed abortion and sibling rivalry among maturing ovules.

DUTEIL, MATHIEU; Pope, Edward; Brown, M. Rowan; King, Andrew J.

Swansea University; m.duteil.836559@swansea.ac.uk

Title: Does climate change effect social dynamics in sea bass?

Abstract: We investigated the interaction rules of juvenile sea bass raised under normal and ocean acidification (OA) conditions using high resolution movement data. Our aim was to establish how individuals respond to their neighbours' movements and positions, and whether OA effects the interaction dynamics of this commercially important migratory marine finfish.

ENGLAND, JONATHAN; Jones, Katherine

Bangor University; bsp011@bangor.ac.uk; @jonatortue

Title: Are right-brainers naturally bolder? A link between laterality and personality in sticklebacks

Abstract: Population variation of laterality in three-spined sticklebacks was investigated. Personality traits was hypothesised to influence this variation since the cost-benefit analysis of a situation would depend on an animal's relative perception of that situation (i.e. shyer individuals being more lateralised).

FAVARO, LIVIO; Gamba, Marco; Alfieri, Chiara; McElligott, Alan; Pessani, Daniela

University of Turin; Queen Mary University of London; livio.favaro@unito.it

Title: Vocal individuality cues in African penguins (*Spheniscus demersus*): a source-filter theory approach

Abstract: African penguins breed in large colonies and vocalisations are important for mate and parent-offspring recognition. We determined which acoustic properties of contact calls and display songs are responsible for individual discrimination. The application of source-filter theory allows a far greater understanding of the information encoded in penguin vocalisations.

GLASER, GEORGINA; Healy, Susan; Shuker, David

University of St Andrews; glg2@st-andrews.ac.uk

Title: Do female parasitoid wasps make 'irrational' decisions?

Abstract: We determined whether female *Nasonia vitripennis* used absolute or comparative evaluation to make oviposition decisions. Different quality hosts presented simultaneously did not affect oviposition, but experience of low quality hosts increased preference for medium quality hosts. *N. vitripennis* used both absolute and comparative evaluation, but their use was context dependent.

GREENWAY, GINNY; Shuker, David

University of St Andrews; evg@st-andrews.ac.uk; @ginnygreenway

Title: The repeatability of mating failure in a polyandrous insect

Abstract: Mating failures represent a common but puzzling phenomenon in many species, including *Lygaeus simulans*. At least in this species individual males, but not families of brothers, demonstrated