
Poster Session 2 – Response to Human Induced Changes

103 Personality dependent corridor use in a grassland species

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The effectivity of corridors connecting isolated patches has been investigated for more than three decades with animals of different species. It is already known that the presence and the properties of corridors are crucial for the species' dispersal and mobility in a landscape. But corridor use may also depend on the behavioural traits of its users. Animal personality, i.e. consistent among-individual differences in behaviour, might affect the space use in general, but also the usage of corridors. We investigated whether the width of grass stripes and the personality of the individual are important for the corridor use of common voles (*Microtus arvalis*). If so, corridors may allow passage only for a proportion of individuals in a population and may thus affect individual mobility and population gene flow. We studied movement behaviour of male common voles in experimental grassland corridors of different width (1 m and 3 m). Voles were tested with established behavioural tests to parametrise boldness and activity. Automated and hand VHF telemetry was used to observe the individual movement of the tested animals (N=34) and to determine whether the animal perceives the structure as a corridor. Results on movement will be discussed in relation to animal personality and corridor width to allow predictions of dispersal abilities of personality types in habitats with different degrees of fragmentation.

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Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

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Book of Abstracts



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