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Physiology in a life history perspective

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Physiology in a life history perspective

Stonechats' adaptations to different environments

MAAIKE A. VERSTEEGH

I

Trying to fit physiological, behavioral and life history traits onto a single Pace-of-Life axis underestimates the flexibility of organisms to adapt to the diversity of factors that characterize environments.

Contra Ricklefs and Wikelski 2002, *Trends in Ecology and Evolution* 17: 462-468

II

One season is unlikely to be more challenging than another. Evolution through natural selection drives organisms to always optimally exploit their environment.

Contra Buehler and Piersma 2008, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B*, 363: 247-266

III

Studies of immunology in wild birds, as well as in other animals and humans, tend to underestimate the importance of environmental factors.

Pederson and Babayan 2011, *Molecular Ecology* 20: 872-880

Horrocks et al. 2011, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, 51: 563-576

IV

Reproduction is not a goal of organisms but merely a characteristic of life.

Contra Roff 1992, *The evolution of life histories: theory and analysis*, p.2

V

Assigning traits to the metabolic, endocrine or immune system limits our thinking about traits that play a role in more than one of these systems.

VI

Multivariate statistics can be a powerful tool to explain the complexity of the immune system, but frequently lead to incorrect -sometimes attractive- interpretations.

Chapter 7

e.g. Martin et al 2007, *Ecology* 10: 2516-2528

VII

Male candidates for a professorship are not necessary for judging the suitability of female candidates.

Spierings, 2012, <http://www.ru.nl/politicologie/koppeling/spierings-hoogleraar>

Contra Commissie Gelijke Behandeling, 2011, Oordeelnummer 2011-198. <http://www.cgb.nl/oordelen/oordeel/224489>

VIII

Like any language, the language of music is one that you have to learn¹, yet more than any other language music has the ability to make you happy, even if you are not fluent.

Patel, 2010, *Music, language and the brain*

IX

Competition in the scientific arena excludes people who excel in the game but do not care about winning.

X

Safety rules that lead to the hiding of coffee machines and electric kettles under lock and key do not make the university a safer place.