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How to prime your offspring

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Propositions

Accompanying the dissertation

How to Prime your Offspring

Putting Behavioural Ecology to the Test

by Mirjam Borger

1. Cooperative breeding does not buffer against harsh environments in Seychelles warblers (Chapter 2)
2. The pedigree method for estimating reproductive value is either inaccurate or imprecise (Chapter 4)
3. The co-existence of multiple behavioural strategies may be more common than generally assumed in behavioural ecology (Intermezzo 2, Chapter 7)
4. The survival and condition of a jackdaw chick is to considerable extent determined by the egg it hatched from (Chapter 5)
5. Dispersal of Seychelles warbler offspring is a behaviour that is complex to study, as it is influenced both by factors within their natal territory (like territory quality and helper presence) and by factors outside of their natal territory (like the population adult sex ratio and population density) (Intermezzo 1, Chapter 3)
6. Evolutionary individual-based simulations are not very common; yet they can be utilised to study the relative effects of natural selection, stochasticity, mutations and transient dynamics, and they are ideally suited for investigating

adaptive hypotheses in complex settings (Intermezzo 2, Chapter 4, Chapter 7)

7. The point of breaking ground is to begin to build something; if all you do is ground-breaking you end up with a lot of holes in the ground but no buildings – Stuart Ritchie in *Science Fictions*, paraphrasing Ottoline Leyser.

8. Sometimes science is more art than science - Rick Sanchez, Rick and Morty

9. The following tale of alien encounters is true. And by true, I mean false. It's all lies. But they're entertaining lies. And in the end, isn't that the real truth? The answer is no. – Leonard Nimoy, *The Simpsons*

10. Not fitting in the system also has to fit in the system – Robbert Dijkgraaf