



Mini-Symposium:

Habitat matching – concepts and eco-evolutionary implications

Adaptation to the environment is a main challenge for living organisms. It is generally thought that deterministic evolutionary adaptation is only driven by natural selection, whereas other forces such as mutation, recombination and gene flow only provide genetic variation on which natural selection can act. There is a growing recognition that we need to acknowledge a second, distinct evolutionary force that can independently drive adaptive evolution, for which we use the term “selection of the environment”. A powerful behaviour leading to selection of the environment is matching habitat choice: habitat choice driven by the assessment of local performance, as a function of the phenotype. In this mini-symposium, we will present empirical and theoretical research on the causes and consequences of habitat matching.

14.00-14.40 Pim Edelaar (CISC, University Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain): Conceptual, empirical and theoretical advance on matching habitat choice, a mechanism favouring rapid adaptation of individuals and populations at small spatial scales.

14.40-15.20 Staffan Jacob (UCL, Louvain la Neuve, Belgium): Habitat choice: evolution and eco-evolutionary consequences

15.40-16.20 Frederik Mortier (UGent, Terrestrial Ecology Unit): Go where you please: modelling how habitat choice affects ecological specialization

16.20- Small reception and discussions

DATE: Wednesday March 22nd 2017

Location: UGENT – Campus Ledeganck - lecture room 0.31