Social Behaviour

Genes, Ecology and Evolution

Humans live in large and extensive societies and spend much of their time interacting socially. Likewise, most other animals also interact socially. Social behaviour is a source of constant fascination to biologists and psychologists of many disciplines; from behavioural ecology to comparative biology and sociobiology. The two major approaches used to study social behaviour involve either the mechanism of behaviour – where it has come from and how it has evolved – or the function of the behaviour studied. Featuring guest contributions from leaders in the field, this book presents both theoretical foundations and recent advances to give a truly multidiscplinary overview of social behaviour for advanced undergraduate and graduate students. Topics include aggression, communication, group living, sexual behaviour and cooperative breeding. With examples ranging from bacteria to social mammals including humans, a variety of research tools are used, including candidate gene approaches, quantitative genetics, neuroendocrine studies, cost–benefit and phylogenetic analyses and evolutionary game theory.

Tamás Székely is an evolutionary biologist with a main research interest in breeding system evolution. Most of his work uses birds as model organisms, studied mostly through field work but also with the use of mathematical modelling and phylogenetic analyses to dissect behaviour. He has co-edited four books, including one on sex, size and gender roles. He is Professor of Biodiversity at the University of Bath, and was recently awarded a research fellowship by the Leverhulme Trust. He has also been a visiting fellow at Harvard University.

Allen J. Moore is an evolutionary biologist whose research interests include quantitative genetic studies of behaviour and morphology, the development of behaviour, theoretical investigations of evolution and behavioural ecology. He is Professor of Evolutionary Genetics at the University of Exeter, as well as head of school and director of the university's Centre for Ecology and Conservation. He is a former secretary of the Society for the Study of Evolution, and is currently editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology*.

Jan Komdeur has a strong reputation in experimental evolutionary ecology. He established the Seychelles warbler as a model system, and his many long-standing international collaborations with leading biologists connect aspects of behavioural ecology, population genetics and theoretical modelling. He has published many papers in international journals, serves on several editorial boards, and has received a number of prestigious international awards and grants. He is Professor of Avian Evolutionary Ecology at the University of Groningen and Director of the Top Master's programme in evolutionary ecology.

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