

Short seminar synopsis:

Behavioral syndromes are defined as suites of behaviors that are correlated across contexts, which exists on the population level. These syndromes are made up of individuals, each with their own behavioral type. A behavioral type exists when behavioral traits are consistent and repeatable to an individual, regardless of others in the population. These syndromes play a large role in animal ecology, evolution, fitness, and everything in between. Another important consideration is cognition, which refers to how an organism perceives and uses information. Cognition is separate from intelligence-which is difficult enough to define, let alone test. Cognitive types and syndromes exist in the same capacity as their behavioral counterparts. This paper looks at the relationship between behavioral syndromes and cognitive types in Eurasian harvest mice. They found evidence for a positive syndrome between exploration, boldness, and activity and some support for a relationship between behavioral type and cognitive traits.

Short Poster Introduction:

Cognition is important to both the individual animal and the role it plays in its ecological niche. Variation in cognition may influence the way different individuals behave within their environment and their performance in certain behaviors such as resource acquisition, ranging, philopatry, and navigation. Cognition is a primary mechanism influencing how and why an animal utilizes its space and resources. In addition to cognition, behavioral type has also been shown to influence ranging behaviors and, in some cases, has been linked to animal cognition. The question has been raised as to whether cognitive styles such as fast-slow or speed-accuracy types share a relationship with ranging and behavioral type (animal personality), which is made up of five axes: boldness, aggression, sociality, activity, and exploration. In this study, we investigate learning in a western Nebraska population of ornate box turtles (*Terrapene ornata*) as it relates to behavioral type and ranging. To our knowledge this is the first study to investigate cognition in ornate box turtles and the first to link cognition to other aspects of the individual's ecology.