



Causes and consequences of variation in metabolic rate

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Why do some individuals have two to three times the 'maintenance costs' of conspecifics, how is this linked to behaviours such as aggression, and what are the consequences? Using evidence from my group's work on salmonid fish, I hope to show that diverse factors (including maternal effects and early developmental conditions) contribute to variation in metabolic rate, and that an individual's metabolic rate influences its fitness through links with aggression, territorial contests, speed of digestion and growth rate. However, the fitness consequences of a given metabolic rate may be context-dependent. This may explain why variation in metabolic rate might persist in natural populations.



Friday January 10th at 9.30
Seminar room (Room 127 building 1131)