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Effects of the early social environment on song and preference learning in zebra finches

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Stellingen behorende bij het proefschrift:

Effects of the early social environment on song and preference learning in zebra finches

1. Female zebra finches generalise early learned song preferences to songs sharing syllables (and/or voice characteristics) with the tutor song (Chapter 3 of this thesis).
2. The kind and number of tutors present in the early social environment affect song tutor choice in zebra finches (Chapter 4 of this thesis).
3. Song preference learning in zebra finches is not limited to the father, models can include additional tutors in the social environment (Chapter 5 of this thesis).
4. The strength of the preference for father's song over unfamiliar ones is affected by the presence of additional tutors in females but not in males (Chapter 5 of this thesis).
5. The absence of a preference for songs heard early in life cannot be taken as proof that they are not memorised.
6. It is necessary to determine the variables in social interaction that cause variation in song and preference learning to better understand the dynamics of cultural transmission of song.
7. Males and females should be investigated to understand cultural transmission of behaviour.
8. To investigate the behaviour of animals, we should also try to simulate the social environment they are likely to experience in the wild.
9. Effects of variation in the social environment on model choice deserves attention not only in zebra finches, but also in other species as it can elucidate how social network dynamics influence cultural transmission processes.
10. Everyone has his/her own time zone. You're not behind. You're not ahead. Everything in your own time zone is on time.

Jing Wei

Leiden, 17 May 2023