

UBFC



UNIVERSITÉ
BOURGOGNE FRANCHE-COMTÉ



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SCIENCE & IMPACT



Effet des interactions inter- et intraspécifique et de la variabilité intraspécifique sur le comportement alimentaire de coléoptères carabiques

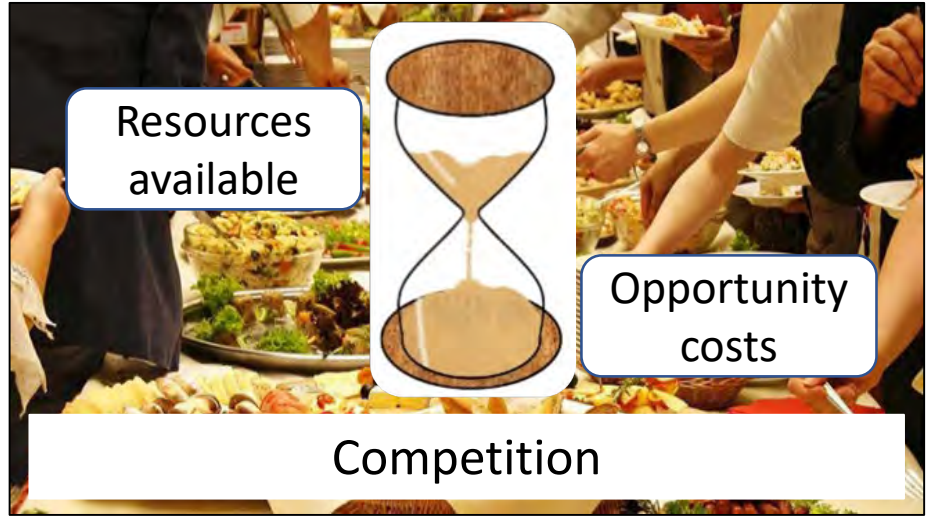


Alice Charalabidis

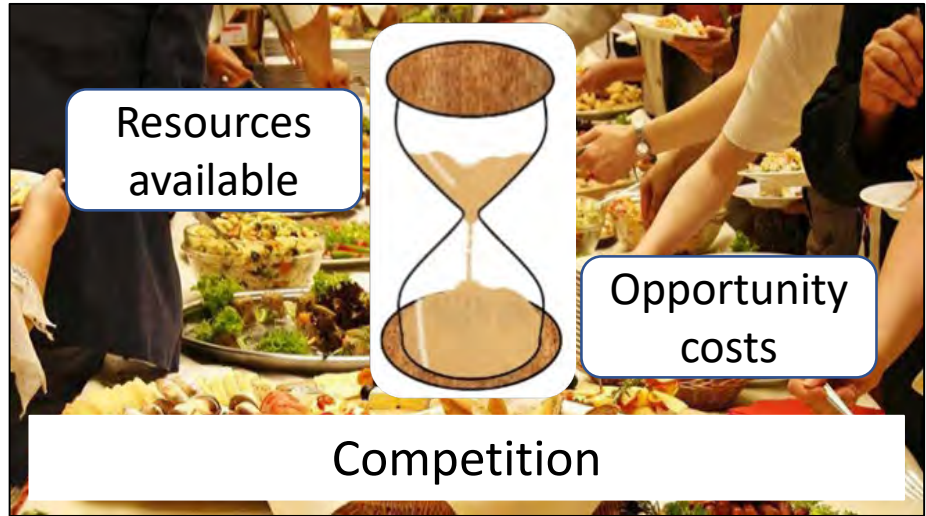
Making a choice



Making a choice



Making a choice



Accurate
choice

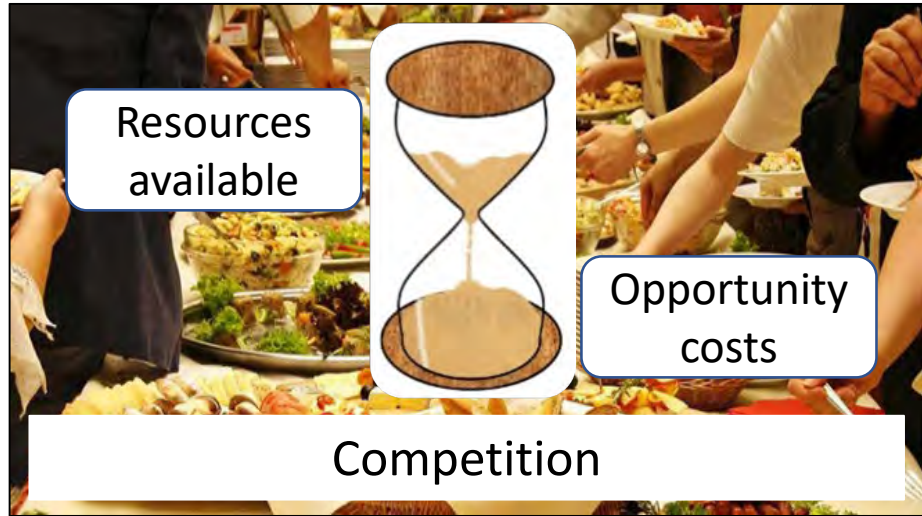
Choice is
preference



Fast
choice

Choice is
good enough

Choice is context dependent



Accurate
choice

Choice is
preference



Fast
choice

Choice is
good enough

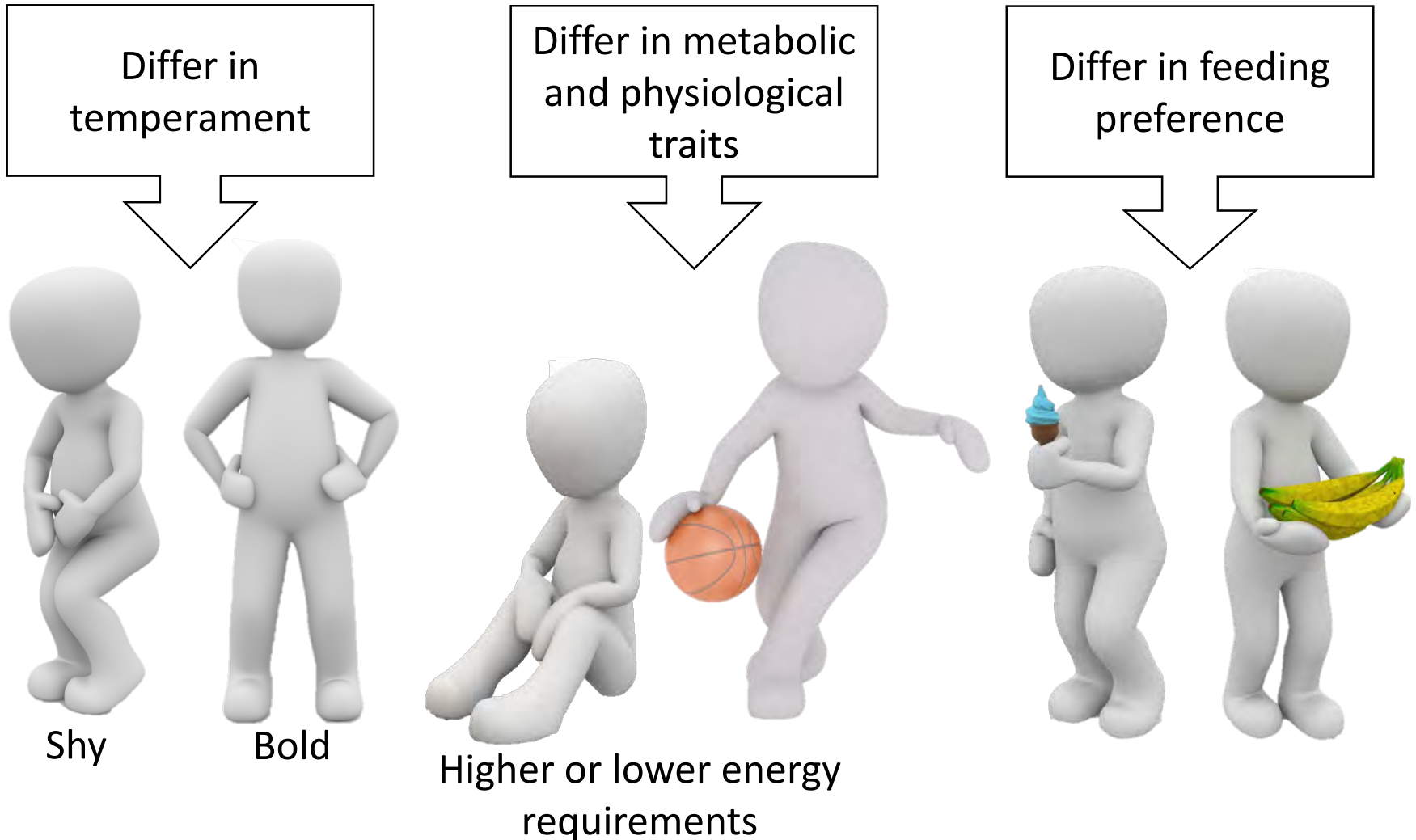
Choice depends on the context

Effect of individuals variability on choice

Are all individuals similar in their choices?



Effect of individuals variability on choice



- Choice depends on the context
- Individual choice might differ

Knowledge of an individual's decision making process (choice) could help improve biological control

Biological control: Regulation of pests (such as animals or weeds) by other organisms. Biocontrol agents are either predator, parasites, pathogens or competitors of the pest.



Ladybirds and aphids



Parasitic wasps and caterpillars



Carabids and seeds of weeds

Objective of biological control: A **reliable and effective** ecosystem **service** to reduce use of chemical inputs, such as pesticides

Knowledge of an individual's decision making process (choice) could help improve biological control

The carabid beetle : A candidate for the regulation of weeds in arable fields:

A credible candidate for the biological control of weeds in arable fields

- Estimated predation of 1150 seeds/m²/day

(Honek et al. 2003)

- Effect on the seed bank turnover

(Bohan et al., 2011)

- Attack the seeds on the ground

(Martinkova et al. 2006)



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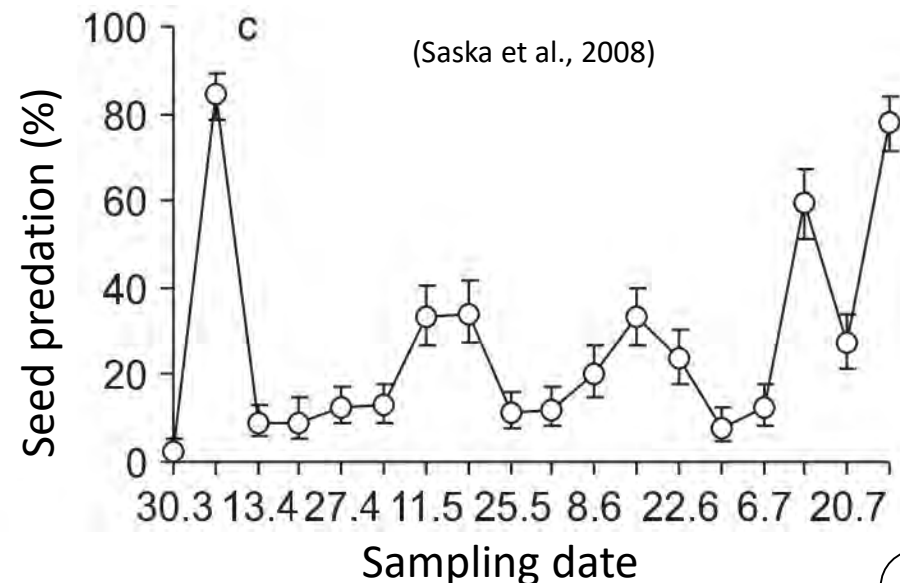
(Bohan et al., 2011)

- Attack the seeds on the ground

(Martinkova et al. 2006)



Yet, in-field predation rates are highly variable in time and space



Knowledge of an individual's decision making process (choice) could help improve biological control

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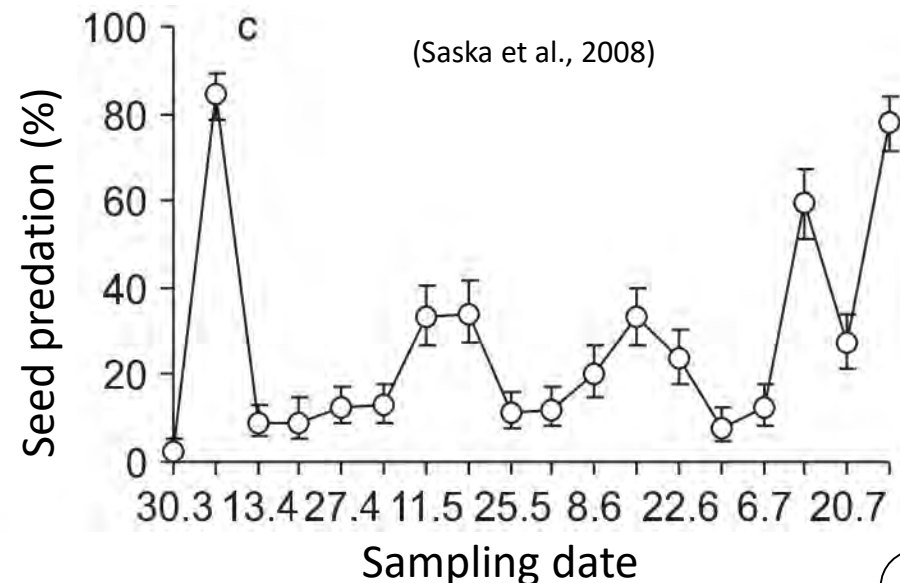
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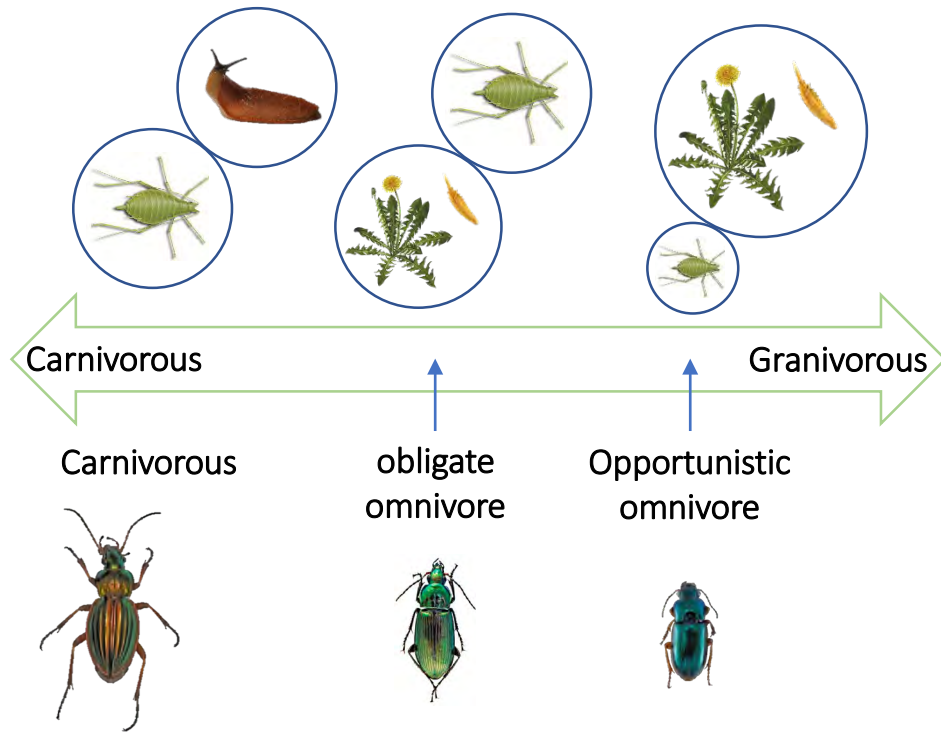
Yet, in-field predation rates are highly variable in time and space

Not yet a predictable ecosystem service



Current knowledge of carabid feeding behaviour could explain variation in predation rates

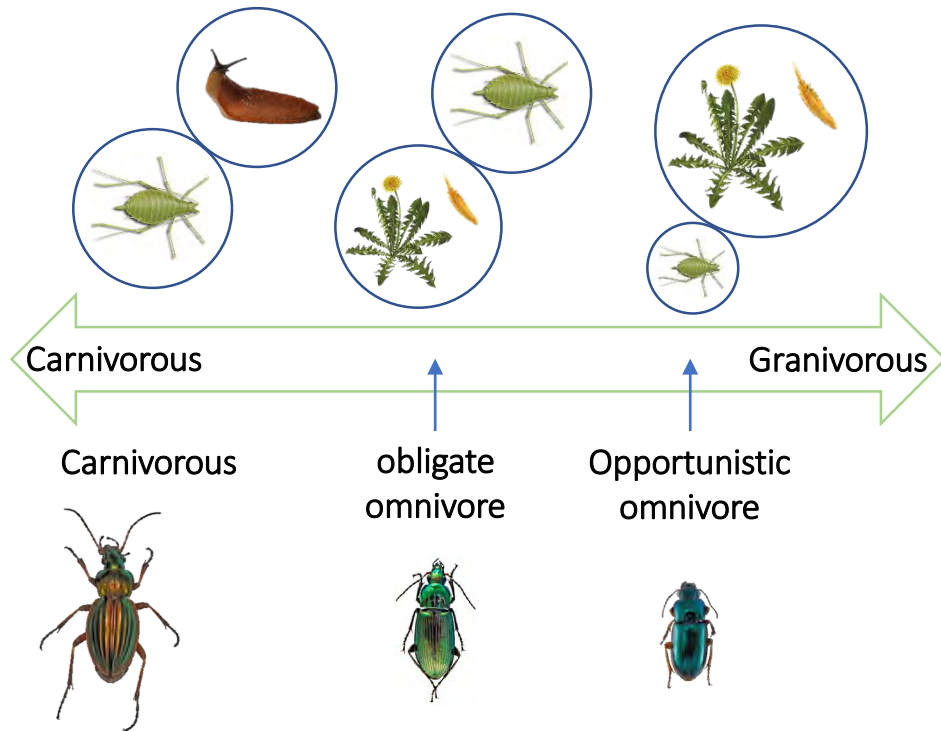
Carabid beetles can differ in their diet



Different potential roles in the biocontrol of weeds

Current knowledge of carabid feeding behaviour could explain variation in predation rates

Carabid beetles can differ in their diet Carabid beetles have feeding preferences



Different potential roles in the biocontrol of weeds



Multiple choice

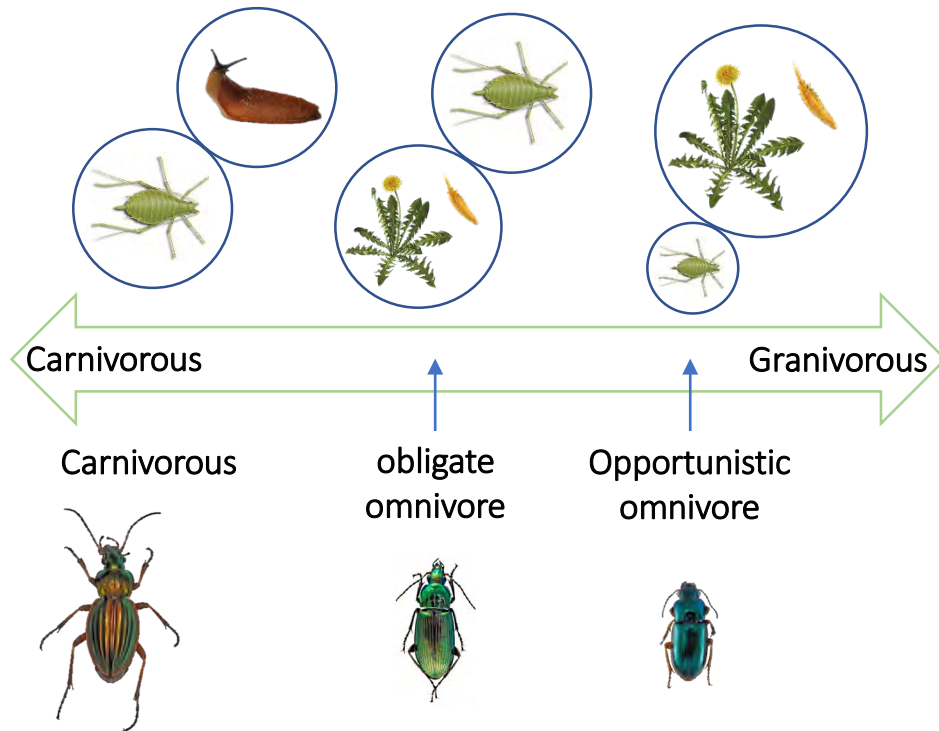
knowledge on **relative preference**



Specific trophic link between some carabid species and some weed species

Current knowledge of carabid feeding behaviour that could explain variation in predation rates

Carabid beetles can differ in their diet Carabid beetles have feeding preferences

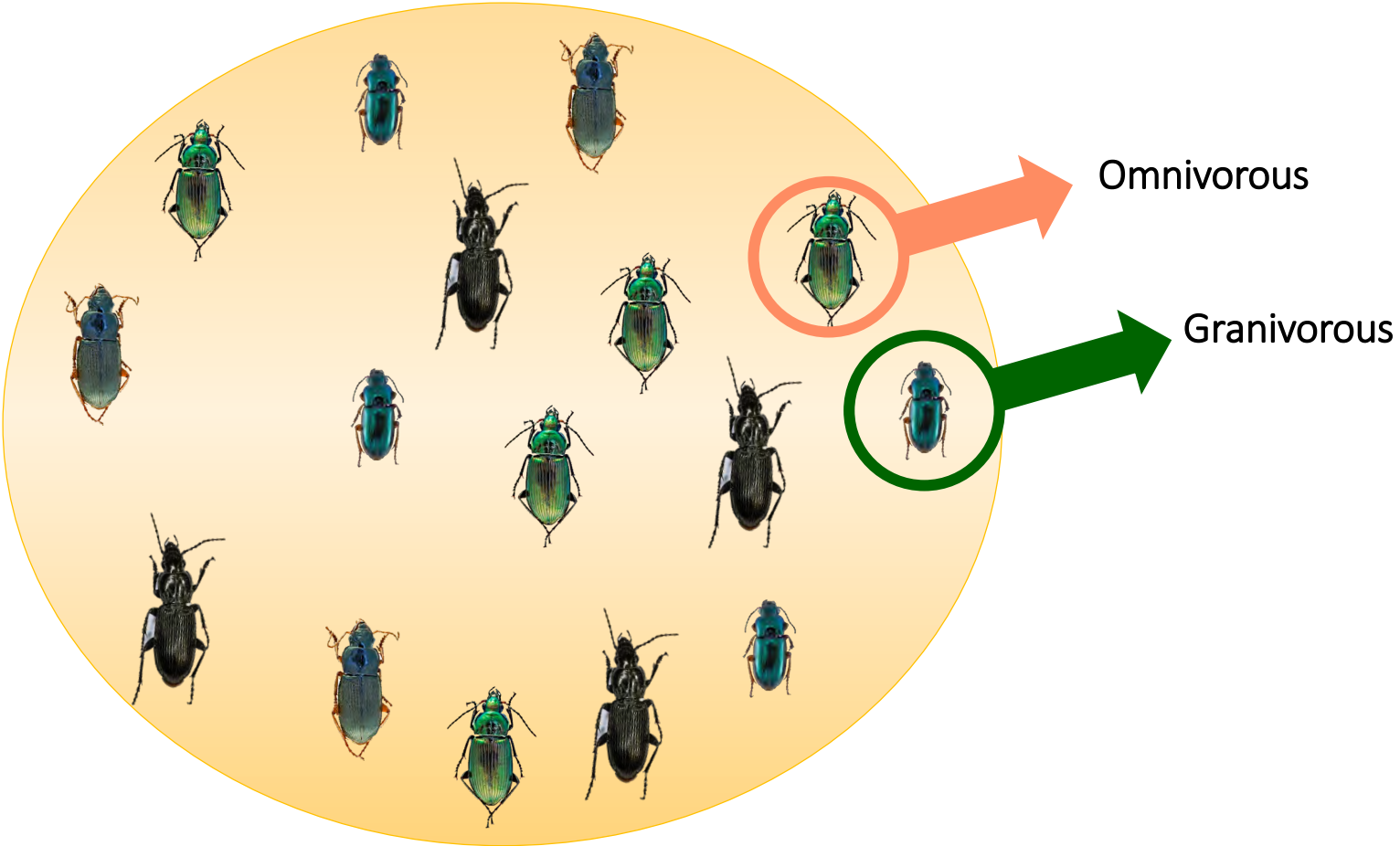


Multiple choice

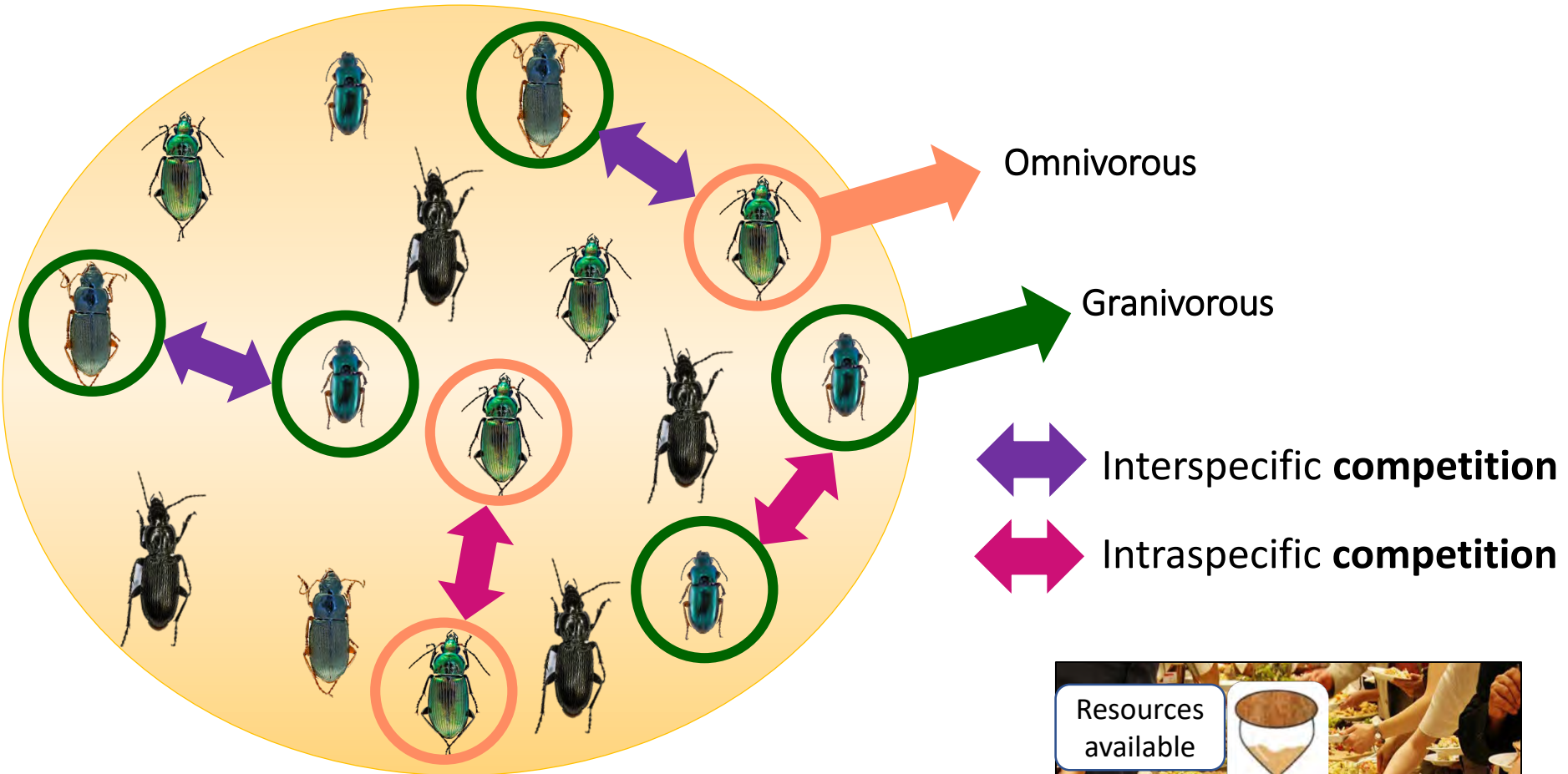


Not much on a carabid individual's decision making process

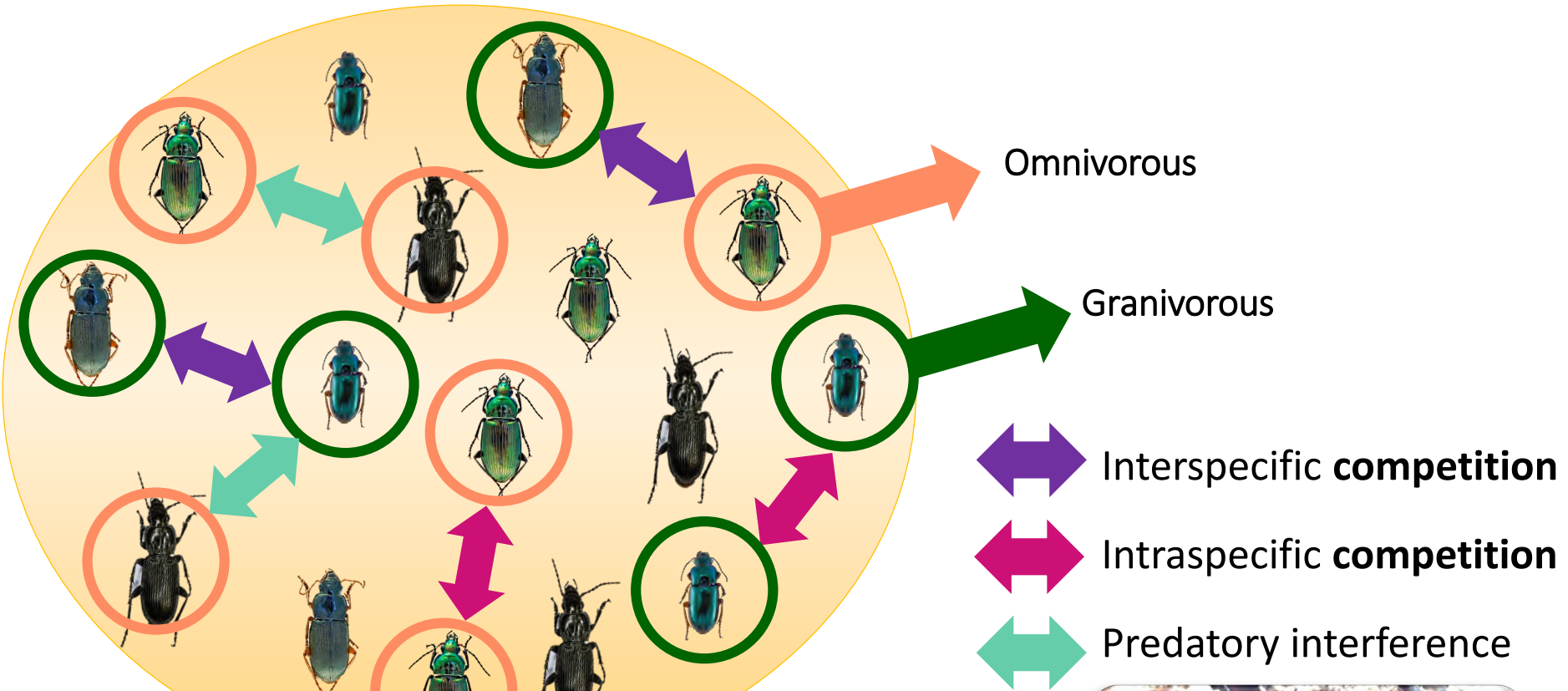
Carabids communities are composed of several different seed-eating species



Carabid individuals may face competition for food items when foraging



Carabid individuals may also face predation interference when foraging



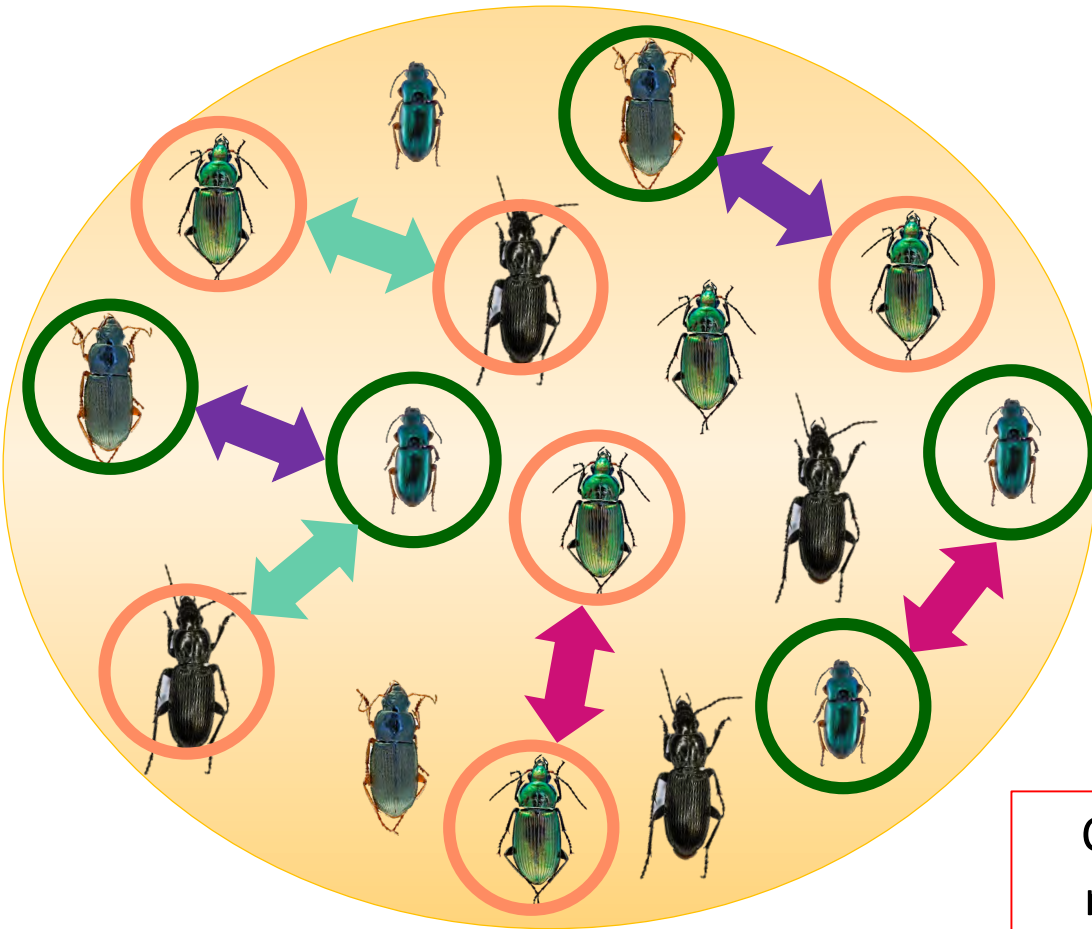
Predatory interactions can impact individual choices for food items

Making an accurate choice is time consuming



Foraging – Vigilance
Conflicting time-consuming tasks

Between individuals interactions could impact carabid individual feeding choices



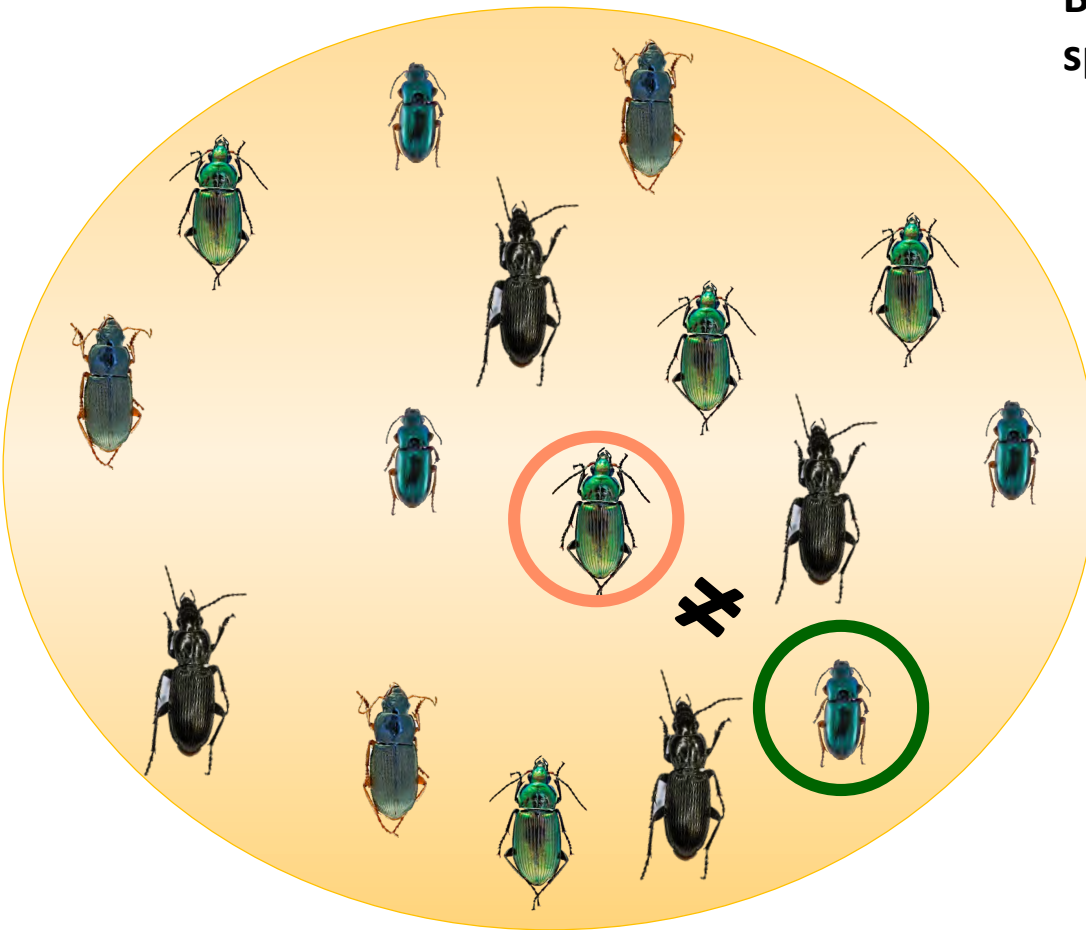
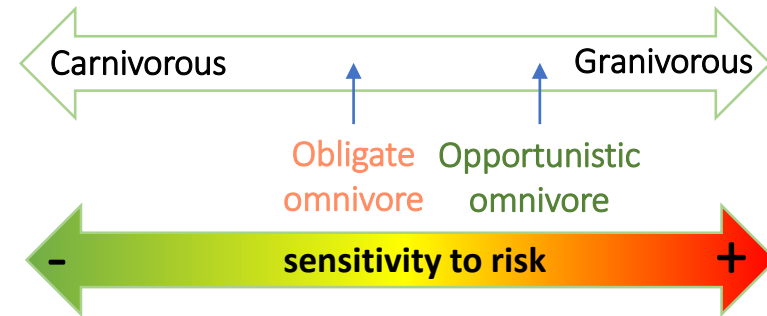
- ↔ Interspecific competition
- ↔ Intraspecific competition
- ↔ Predatory interference

Carabids community composition might impact foraging individuals choices

Carabid species might differ in their feeding choices and sensitivity to competition and predation interference, depending on the relative importance of seeds in their diet

Between individuals of two different species:

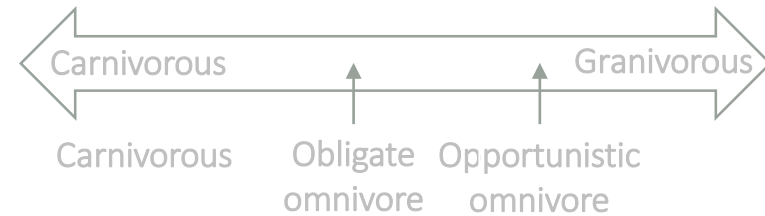
The relative importance of seeds in the diet of a species can also impact individual feeding choices



Individuals of a given species might also differ in their feeding choices and sensitivity to competition and predation interference

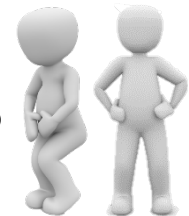
Between individuals of two different species:

The relative importance of seeds in the diet of a species can also impact individual feeding choices

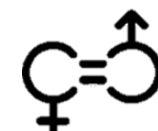


In a given species:

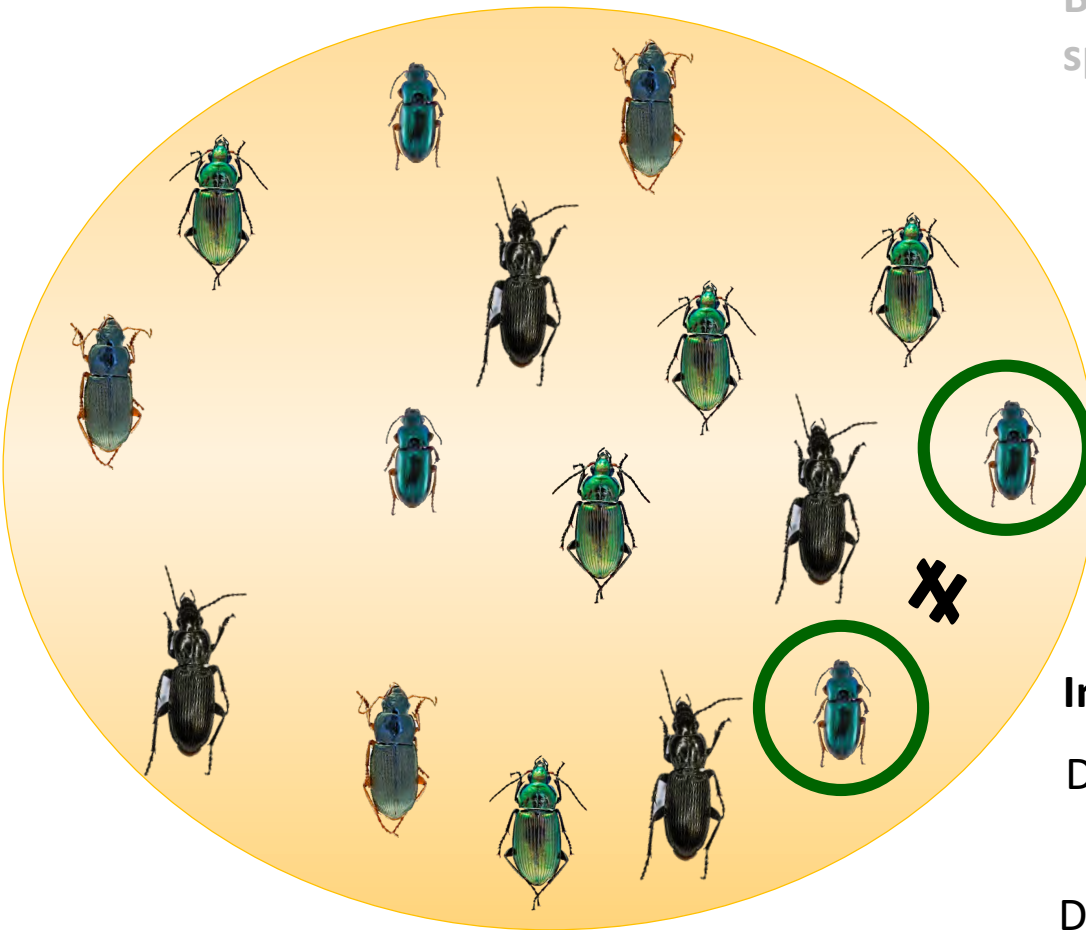
Differ in temperament?



Differ in energetic requirement

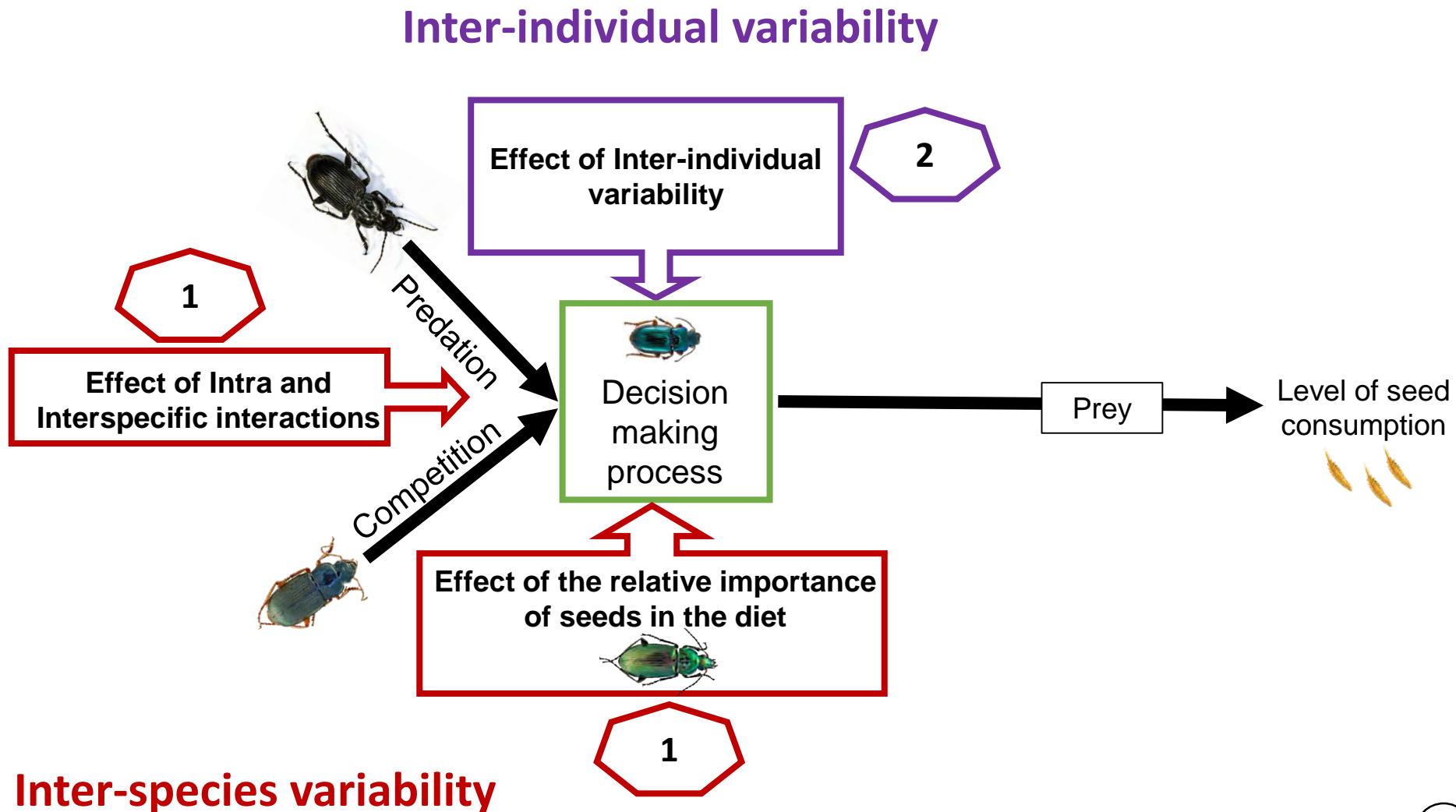


Sex effect?



Inter-individual variability can impact carabid feeding choices

Schematic diagram of the interference interactions (inter and intraspecific) and individual effects impacting carabid decision making



Choice of a metric to assess change in carabid decision making processes

Choosiness = Effort or energy invested in resource assessment

(Jennions & Petrie 1997)

Gives insight into an **individuals overall interest** in a given resource

Being choosy is time consuming



Change in individual level of choosiness is a good metric to assess individuals change in decision making processes

Choosiness = Effort or energy invested in resource assessment

(Jennions & Petrie 1997)

Gives insight into an **individuals overall interest** in a given resource

Being choosy is time consuming



Effort or energy invested should change according to the encountered intra and/or interspecific interactions

Perceived competition → opportunity costs = change in level of choosiness?

Perceived predation risk → tasks tradeoff = change in level of choosiness?



How to measure change in the level of choosiness?

Use of choice paradigm:

Gives insight into an **individual's preference** for a given resource over another one

I take one over two edible items



I have a feeding preference

How to measure change in the level of choosiness?

Use of choice paradigm:

Gives insight into an **individual's preference** for a given resource over another one

I take one over two edible items



I have feeding preference

Use of no-choice paradigm:

Gives insight into an **individual's interest** in a given resource

I invest time prior to accepting the only edible item available



I am choosy

Use of a no-choice paradigm helps assess an individual's levels of choosiness

- Can **vary according to the context** in which individuals forage
- Can **vary between individuals**

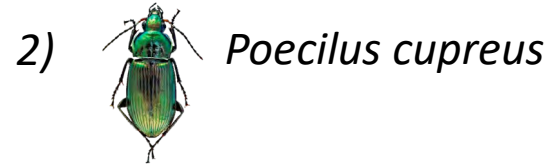


- **Easy to measure:**
 - Latency to first acceptance
 - Number of items consumed or rejected in a given time span
- **Easy to analyze:**
 - Independent variables

Which species of carabids to use in test?

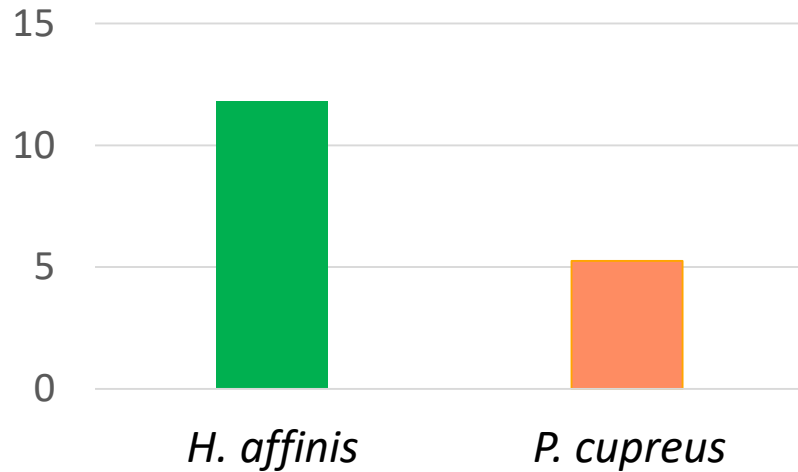


Common **granivorous** species
Abundant in fields



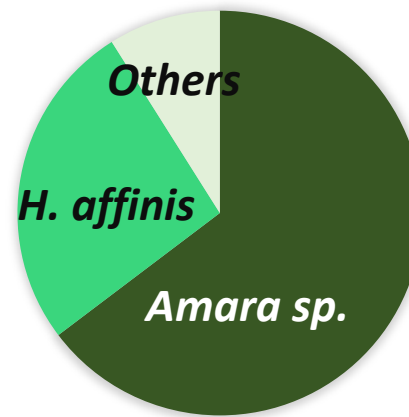
Common **omnivorous** species
Abundant in fields

Mean daily seed consumption

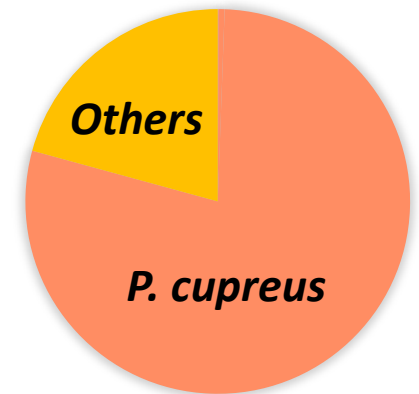


(Petit et al., 2014)

Among **granivore**

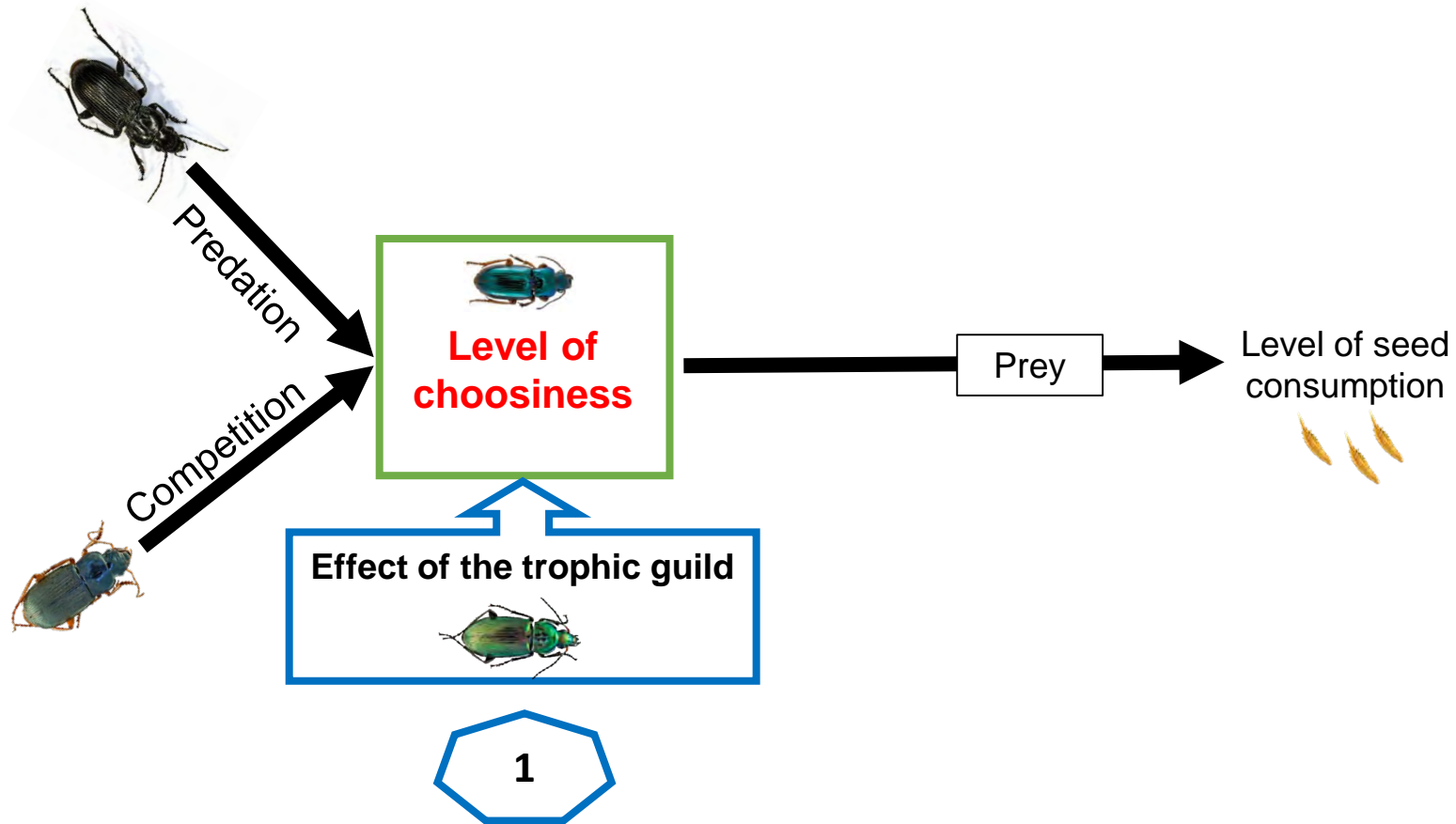


Among **omnivore**



Common in arable fields

Will two carabid species differ in their level of choosiness for different species of seeds of weeds?



H: A carabid granivorous species will have a lower choosiness for seed of weeds in comparison to an omnivorous one

Interest for seeds of two abundant carabid species



The **granivorous**
Harpalus affinis



The **omnivorous**
Poecilus cupreus

Mean consumption
obtained from a
choice – test paradigm

Relative preference



Carabid species tested separately



T. officinale



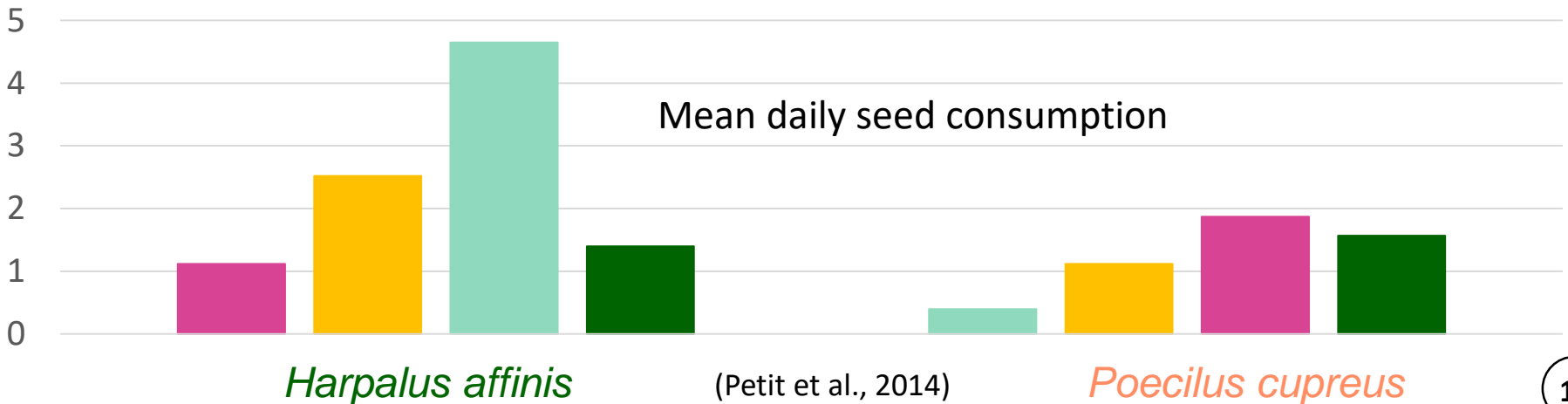
C. bursa-pastoris



V. arvensis



S. vulgaris



Interest for seeds of two main carabid species



The **granivorous**
Harpalus affinis



The **omnivorous**
Poecilus Cupreus

Carabid species tested separately



No-choice test

Level of choosiness

Latency to first seed acceptance

Total number of seed eaten



Taraxacum officinale



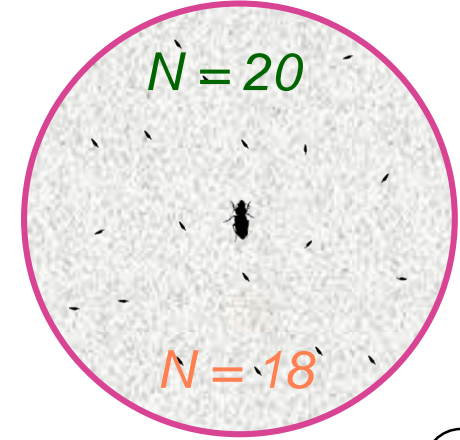
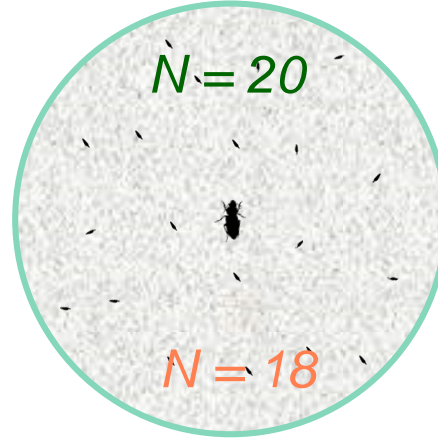
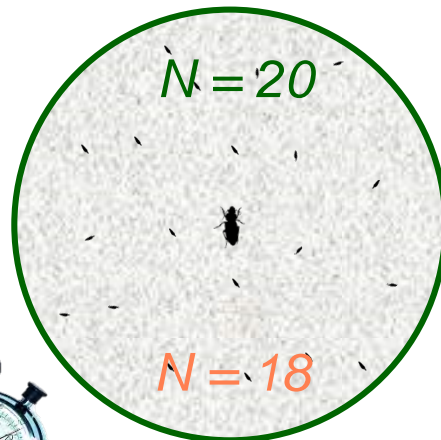
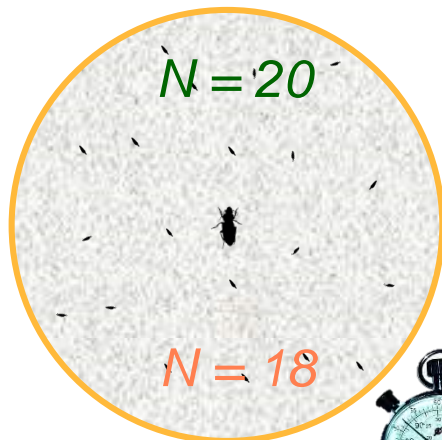
Capsella bursa-pastoris



Viola arvensis



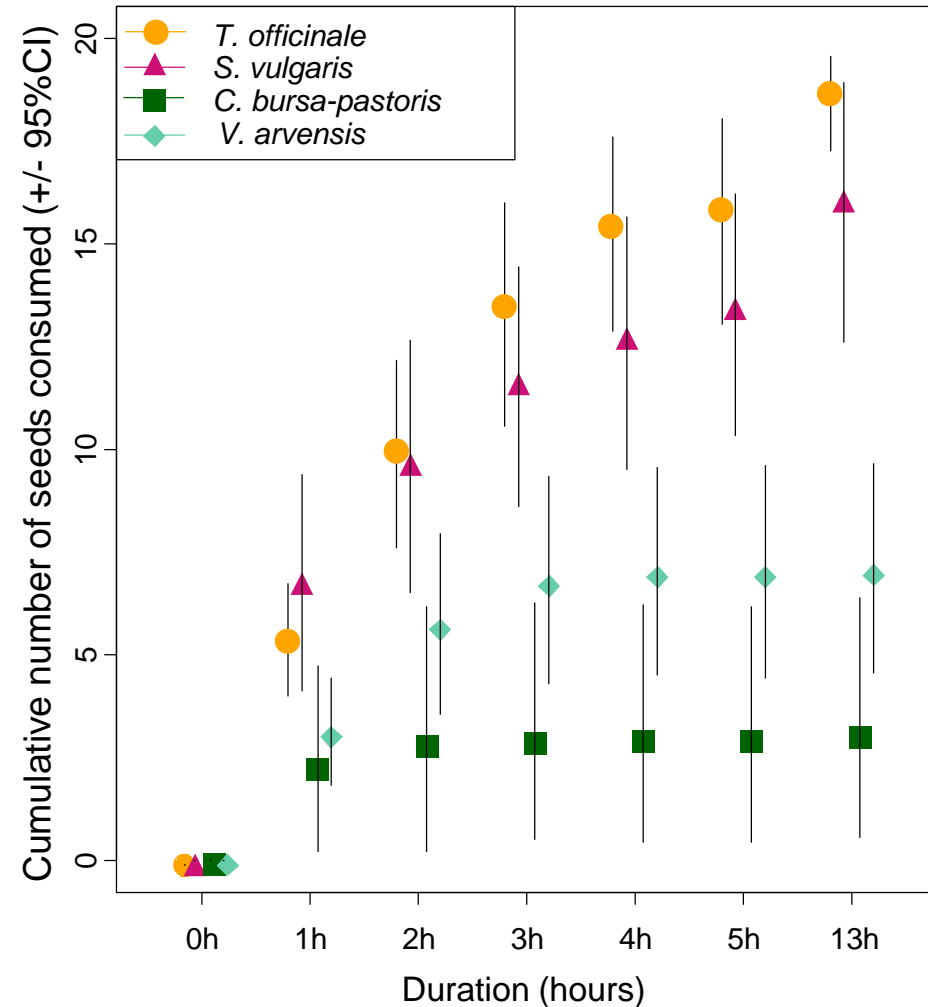
Senecio vulgaris



6 sample dates: 1h, 2h, 3h, 4h, 5h, 13h

The amount of seeds consumed by *P. cupreus* differed between weed species

P. cupreus (omnivorous)



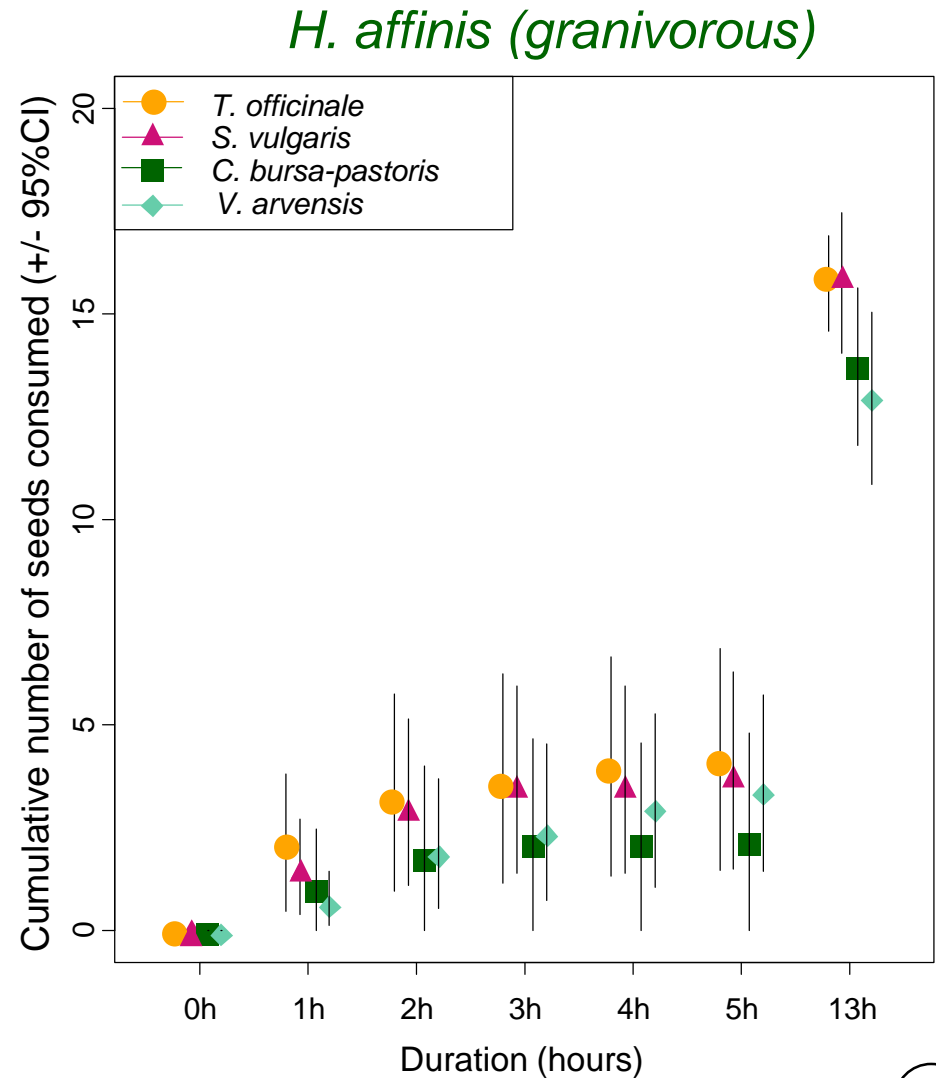
Consumption differed between weed species ($P < 0.05$)

T. officinale and *S. vulgaris* were eaten more eagerly than *C. bursa-pastoris* and *V. arvensis* seeds ($P < 0.05$)

Seeds of *V. arvensis* and *C. bursa-pastoris* are in overall overlooked

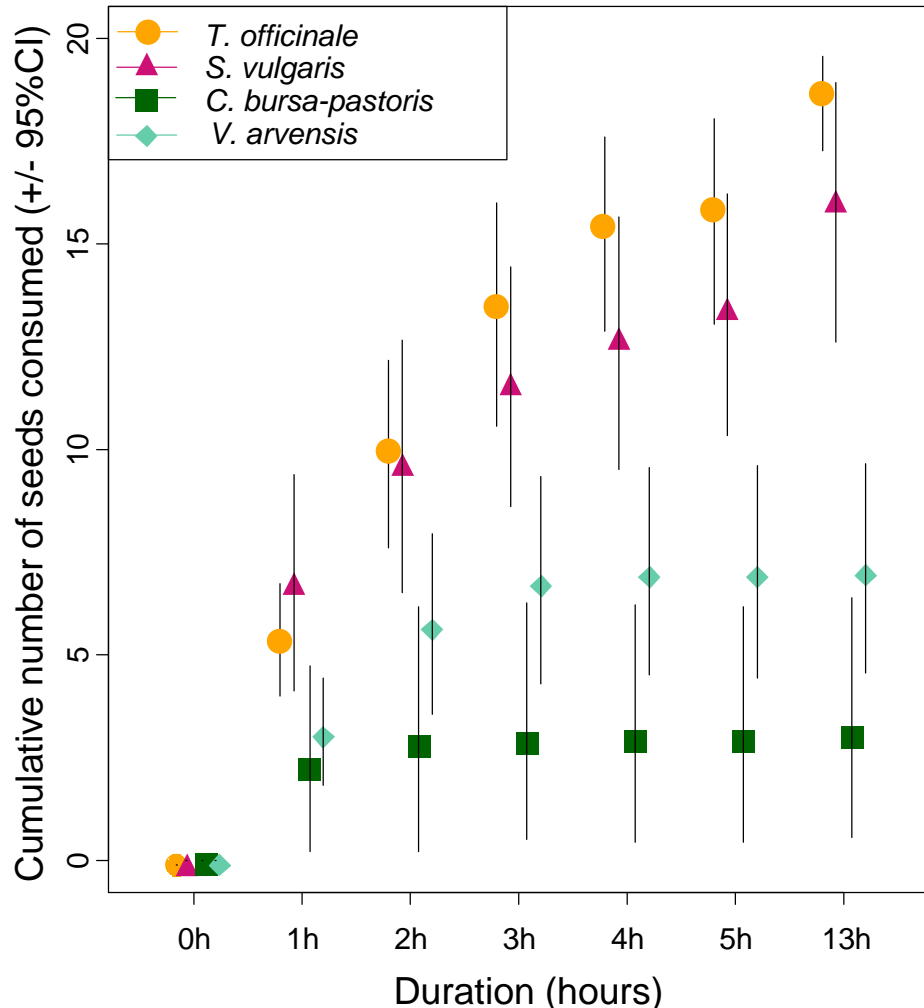
The amount of seeds consumed by *H. affinis* did not differ between weed species

Consumption did not significantly differ between weed species ($P = 0.88$)

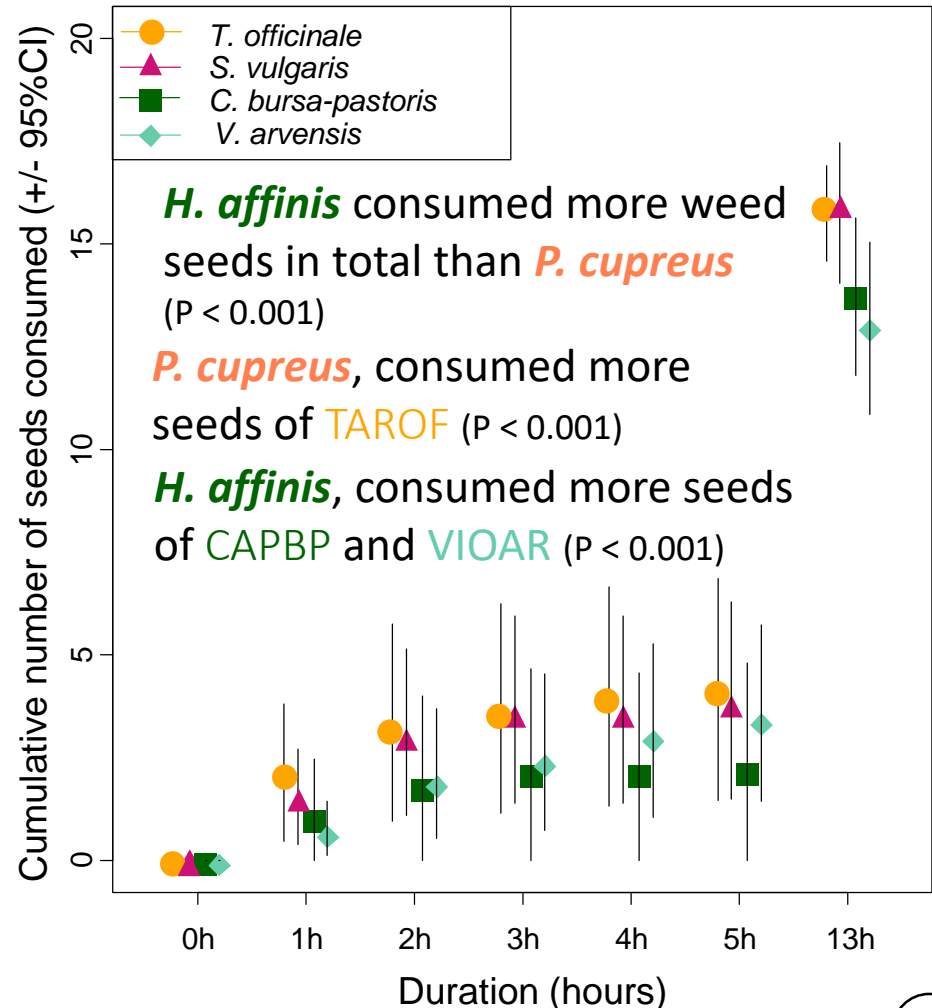


Both tested carabid species differed in their foraging behaviour

P. cupreus (omnivorous)

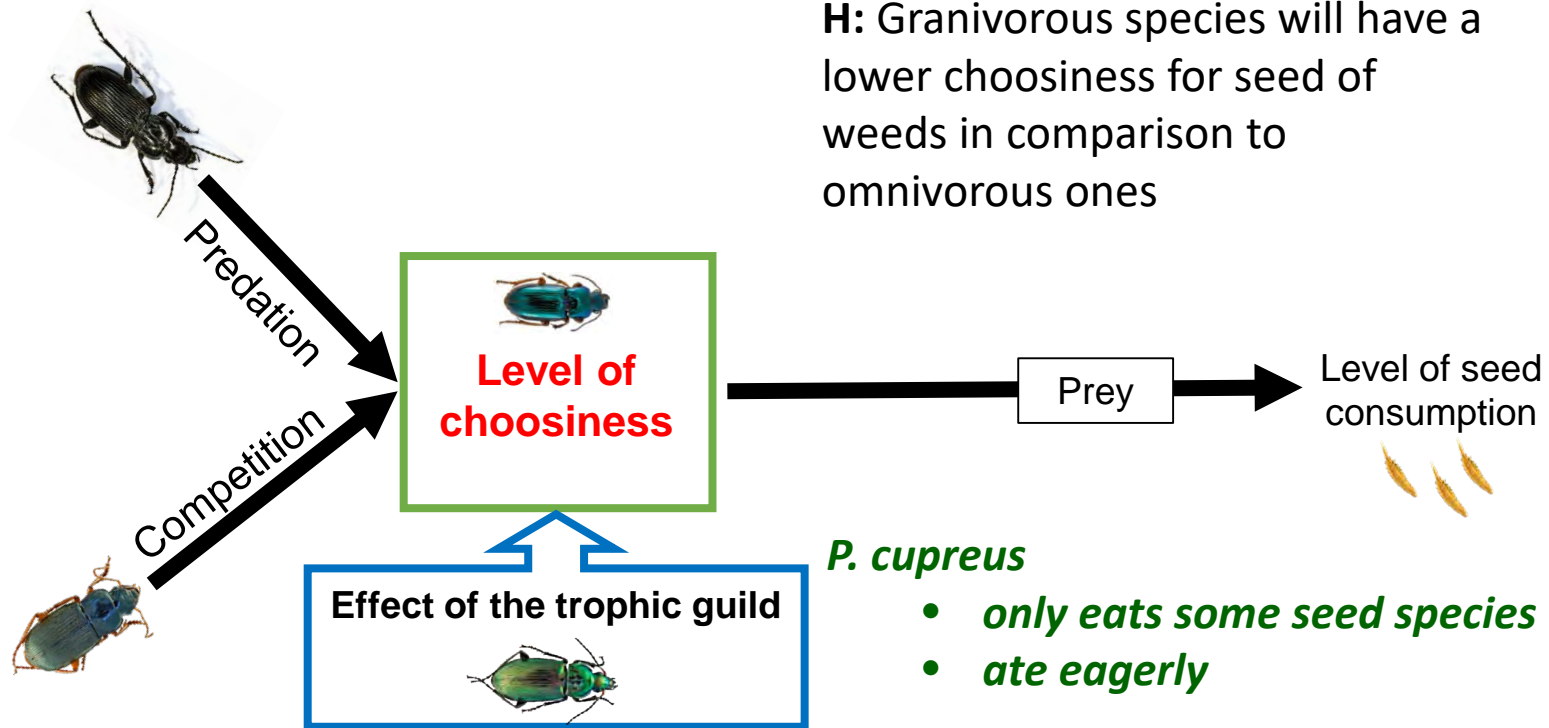


H. affinis (granivorous)



(Charalabidis et al., 2019)

Will two carabid species differ in their level of choosiness for different species of seeds of weeds?



The two carabid species differed in their foraging behaviour

P. cupreus

- *only eats some seed species*
- *ate eagerly*

H. affinis

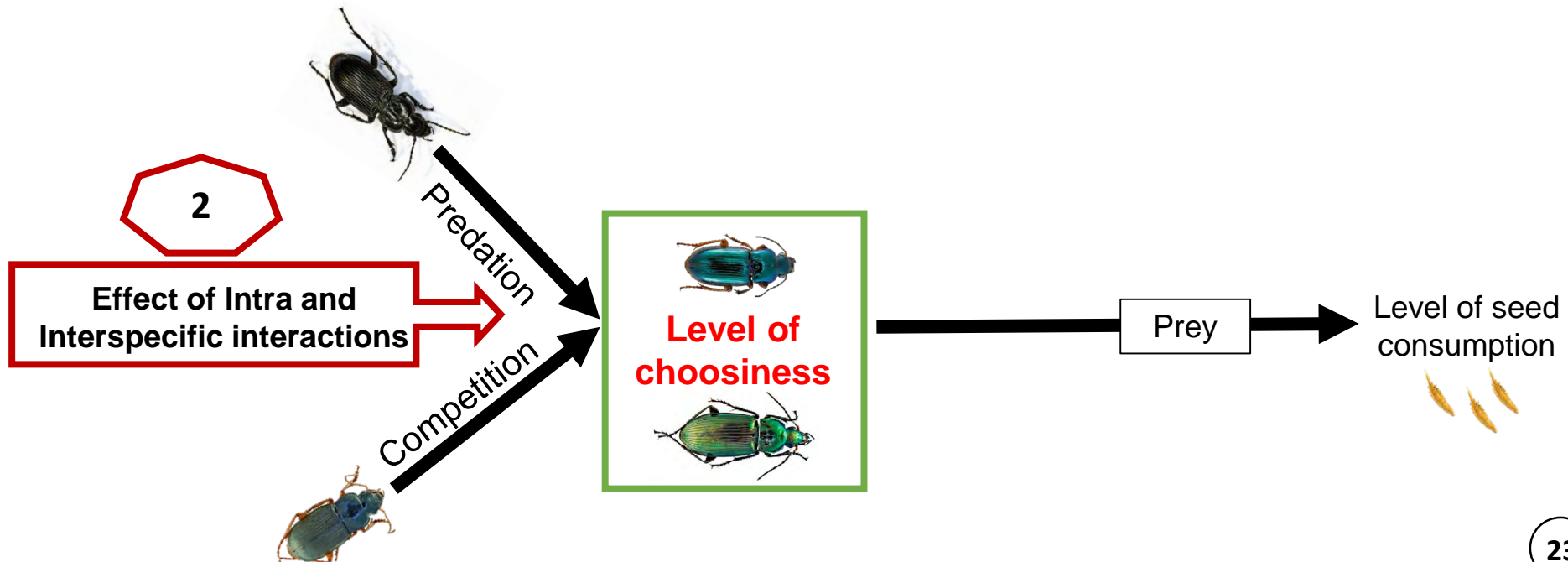
- *Ate all species of seeds*
- *Only start eating after 5 hours*

Do individuals adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter?

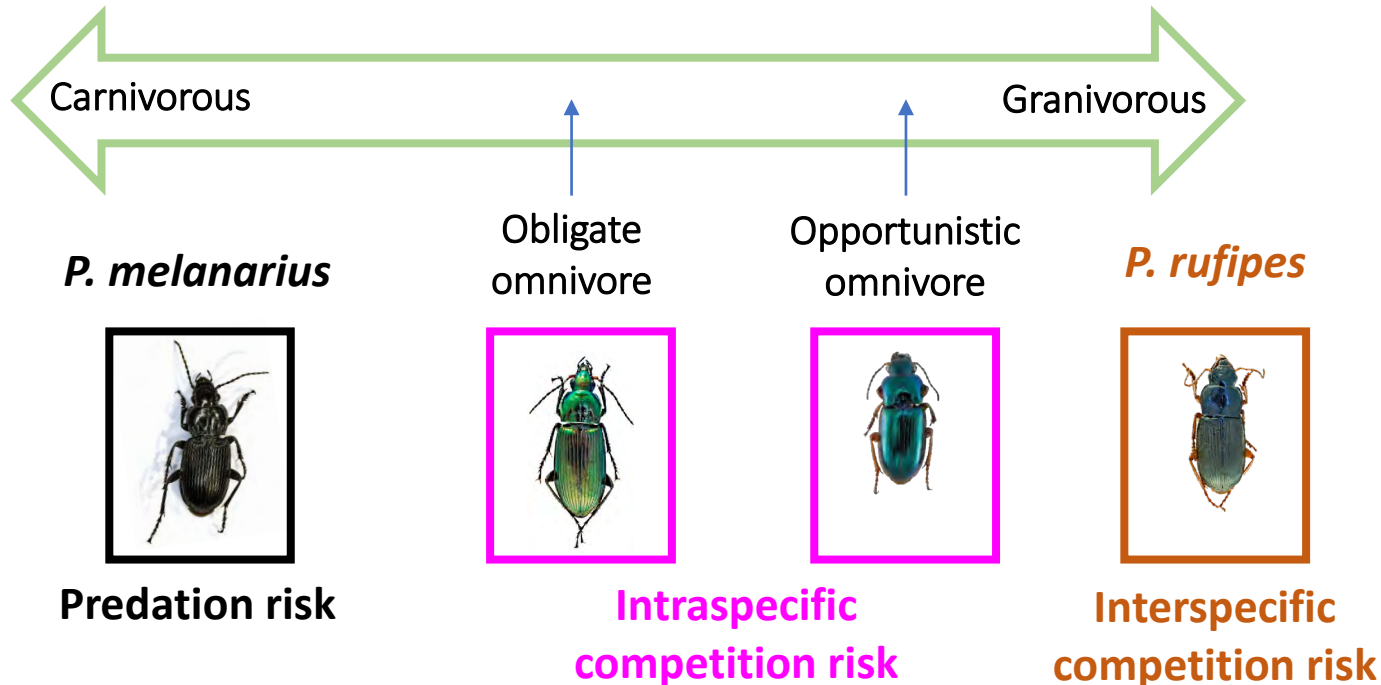
H: Both carabid species will adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter

H: Intensity of the behavioural adjustment to risk depends on:

- the relative importance of seeds in the carabid species diet
- the relative perception of the risk - danger



Used two other carabid species for testing interactions: one that eats a lot of seeds and one that is a invertebrate predator



Preys on :

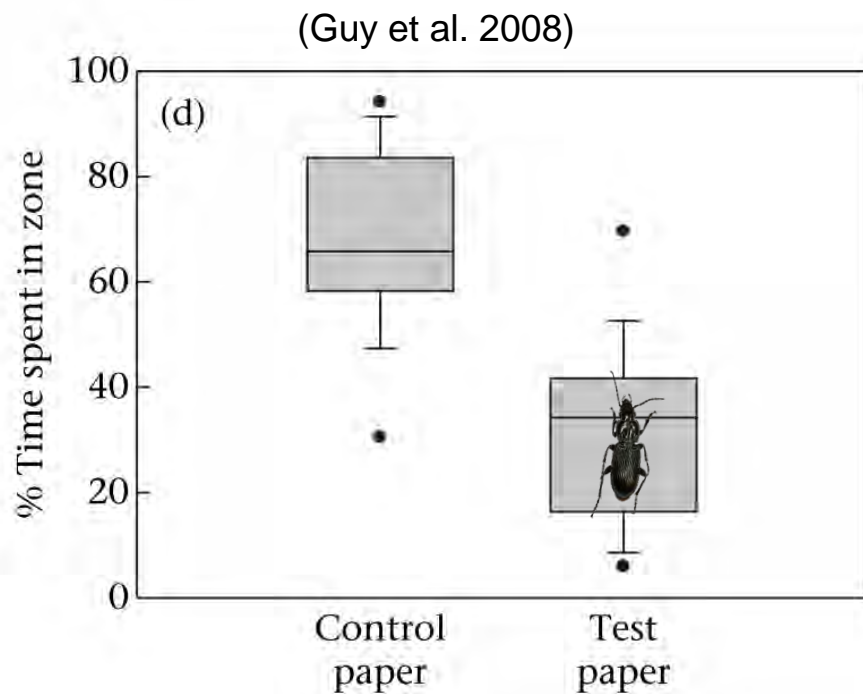
- **invertebrate predator** (Kromp, 1999)
- **other carabid species** (Currie et al. 1996)

Readily eats a large amounts of seeds in laboratory conditions

(Petit et al. 2014)

Use of olfactory cues instead of actual individuals to avoid confounding effects

Papers saturated with **olfactory cues** instead of actual individuals



A study showing perception and behavioural adjustment to olfactory cues by carabids



Avoid confounding effects of direct interaction between the focal individual under test, and the intraguild predators and competitors

Choice of a seed species that will allow change in individual levels of choosiness

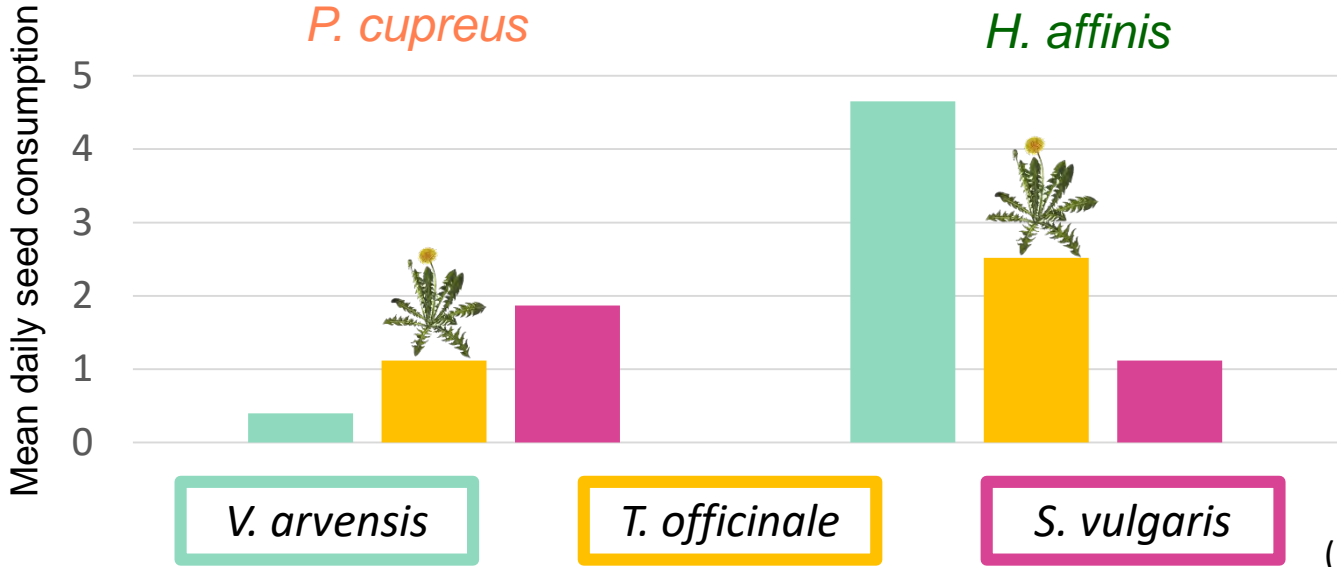


Taraxacum officinale



Multiple choice test

A moderately but not highly preferred species



Set up for the assessment of changing in level of choosiness, under different interference interactions

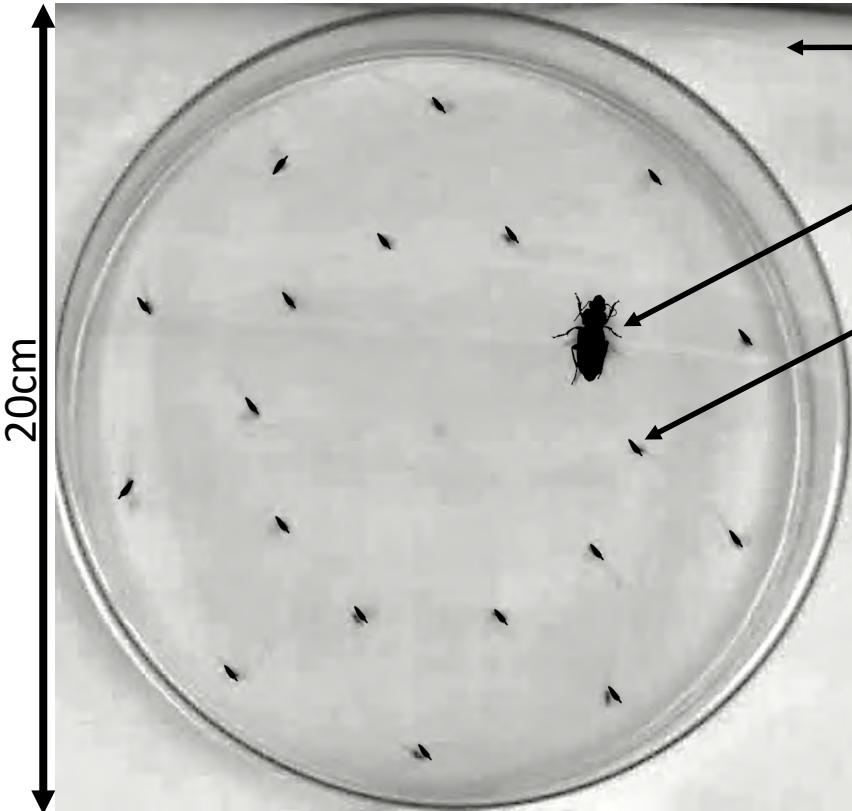


Harpalus affinis
N= 290



Poecilus cupreus
N= 288

Distributed in four treatments



Impregnated paper

Focal Individual

Seeds (20)



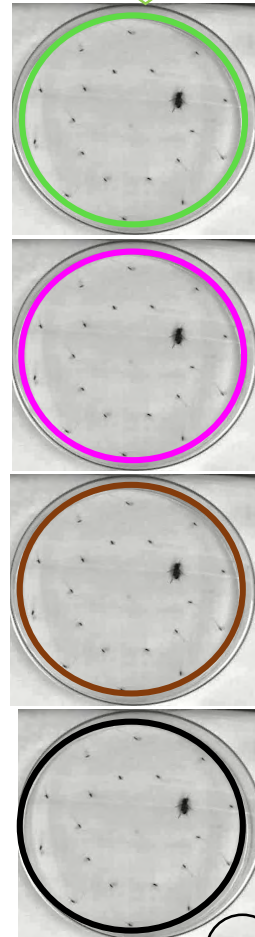
No-choice paradigm

Control

Intraspecific competition

Intraspecific competition

Predation



Set up for the assessment of changing in level of choosiness, under different interference interactions



Harpalus affinis
N= 290




Poecilus cupreus
N= 288

Observation: 1 hour

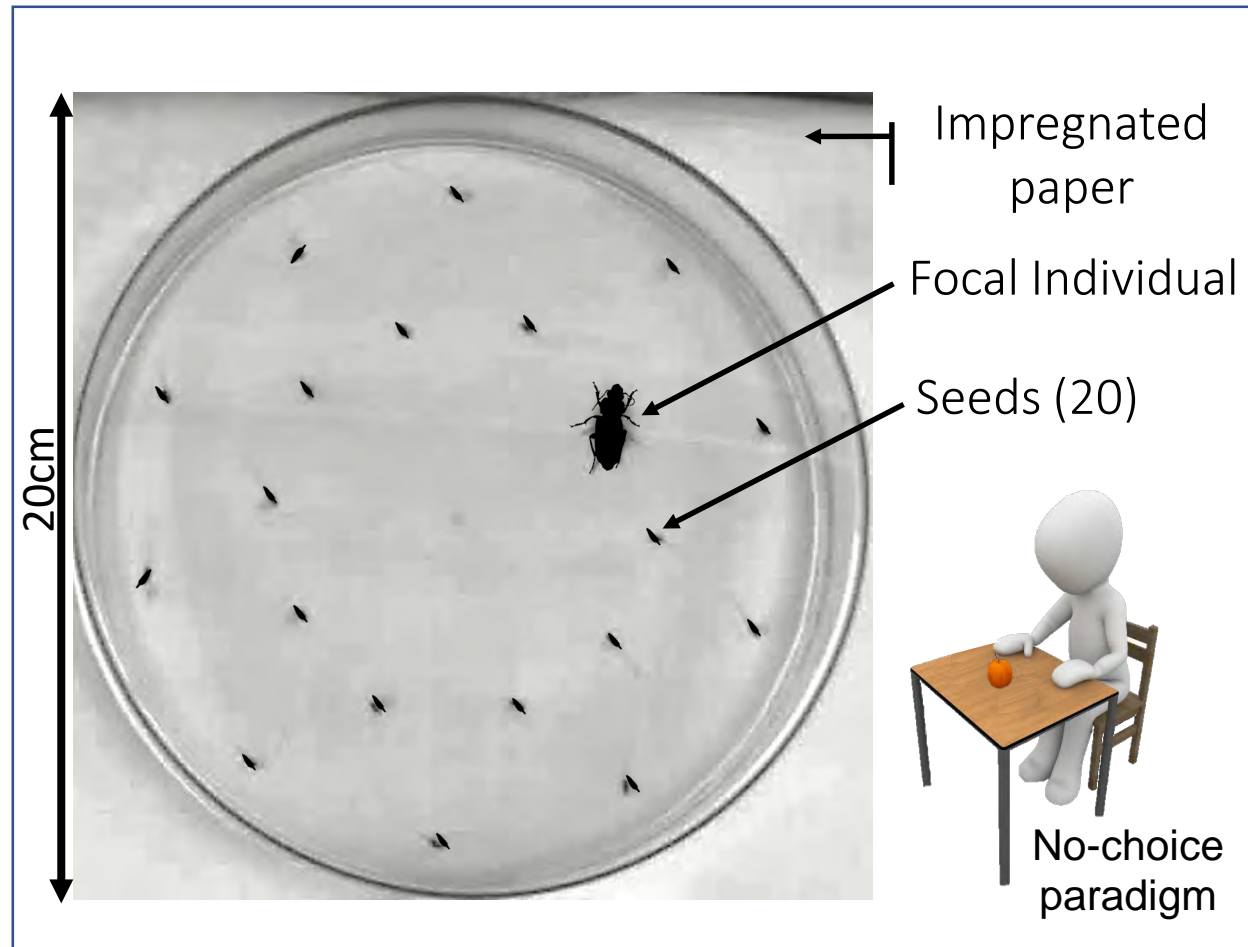


Assessment of choosiness:

- Latency to first seed acceptance 
- Total seed consumption

To control for change in seed encounter between treatments – confounding effect:

- Space use



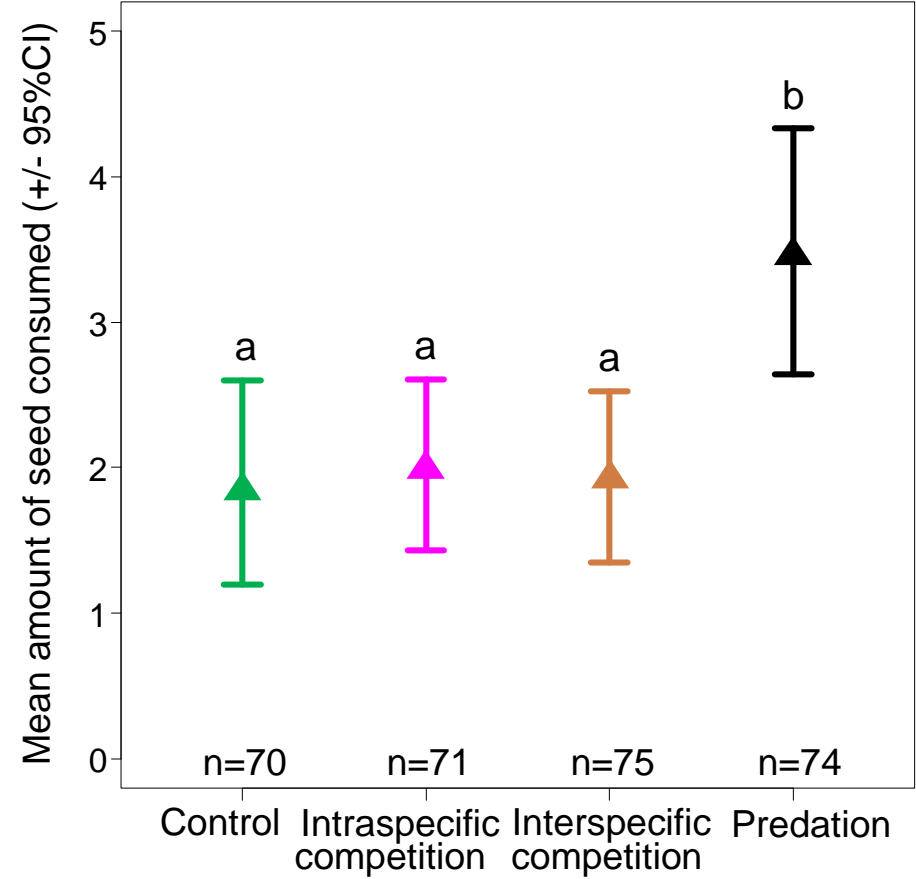
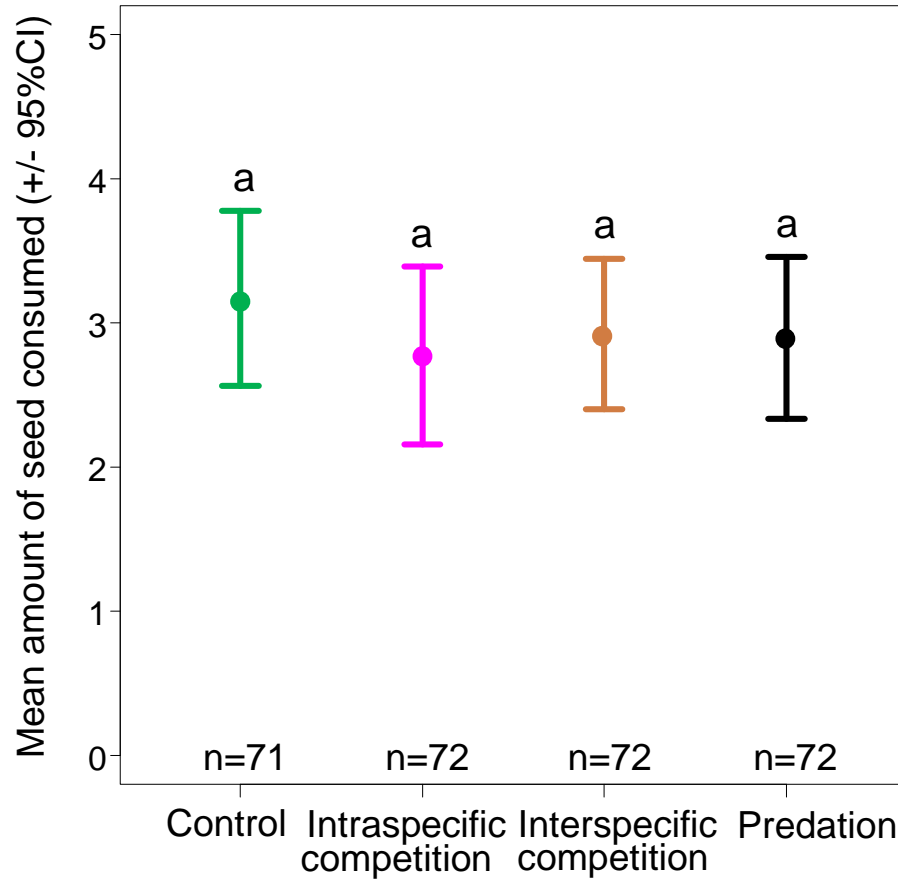
H. affinis increases seed consumption under predation risk

Observation: 1 hour



P. cupreus (N=288)

H. affinis (N=290)



P. cupreus ate more seeds than *H. affinis* in the control treatment

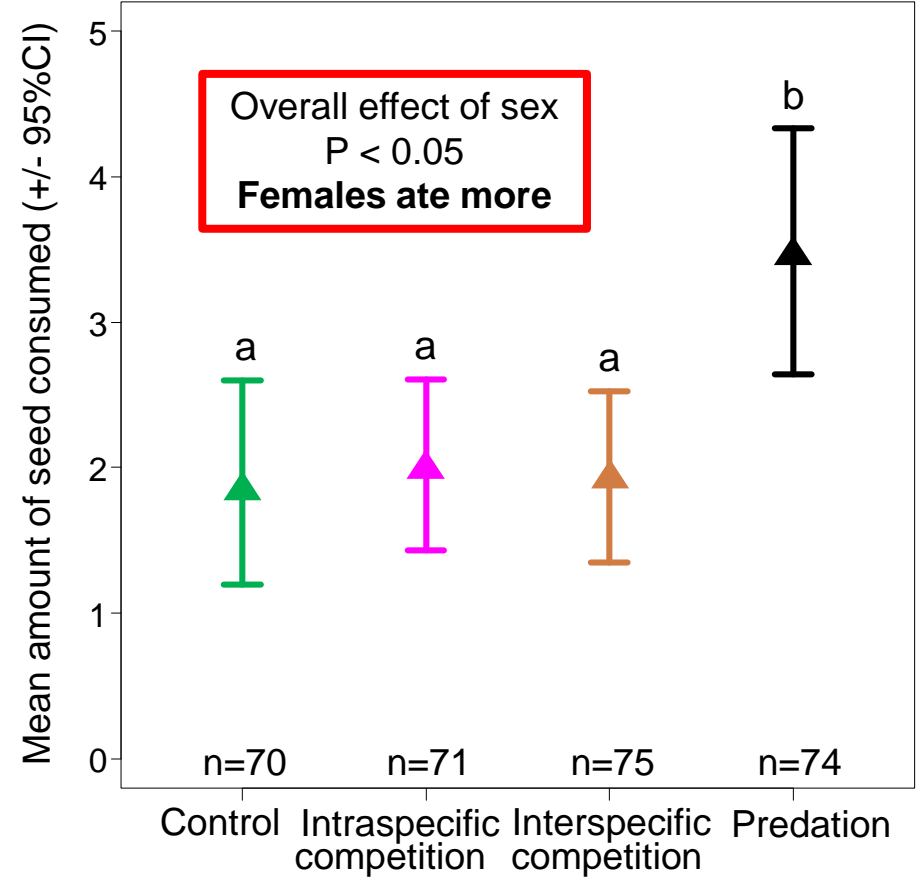
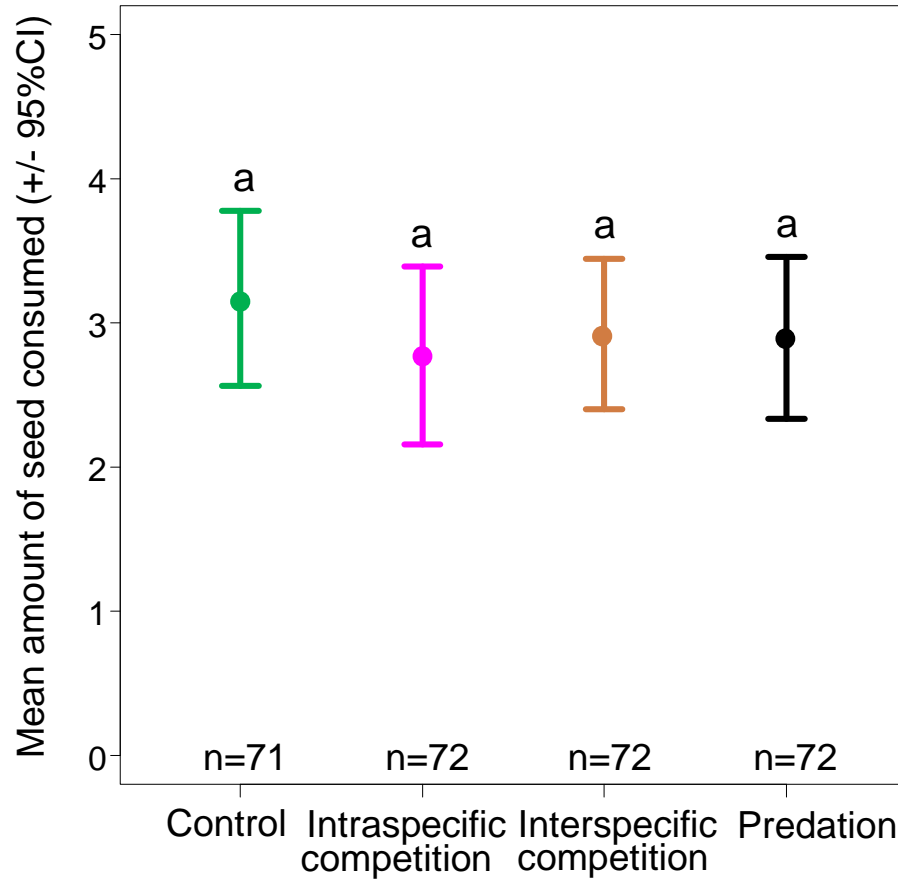
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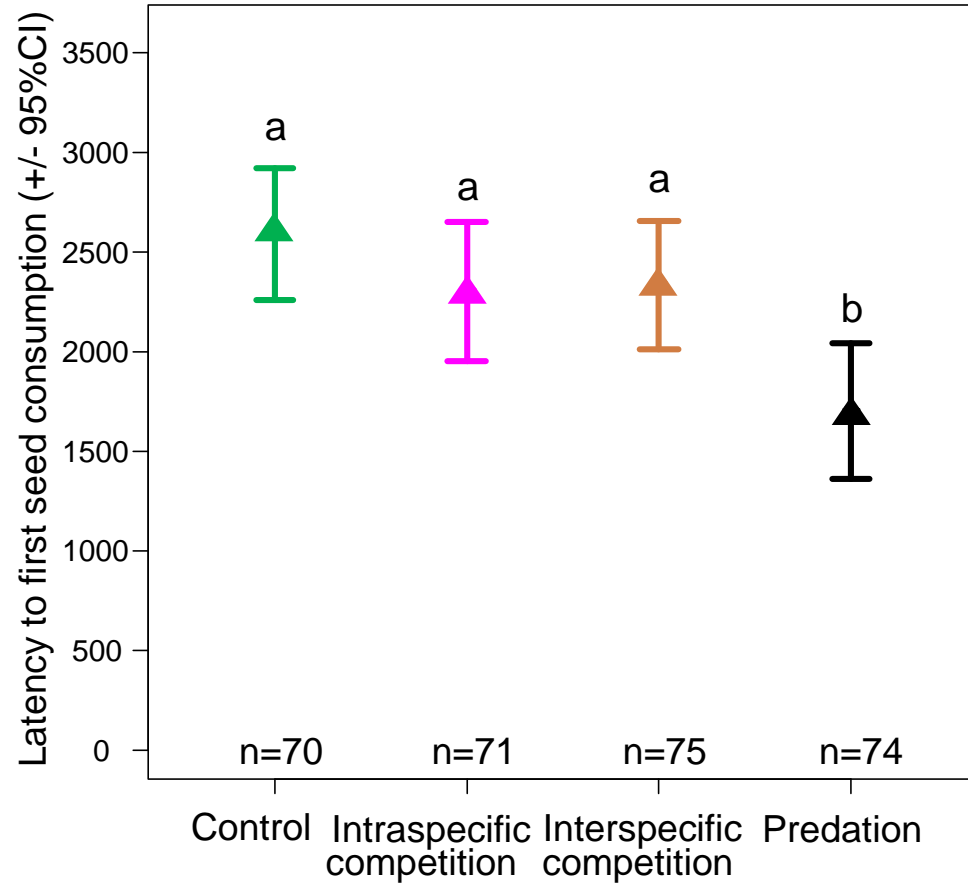
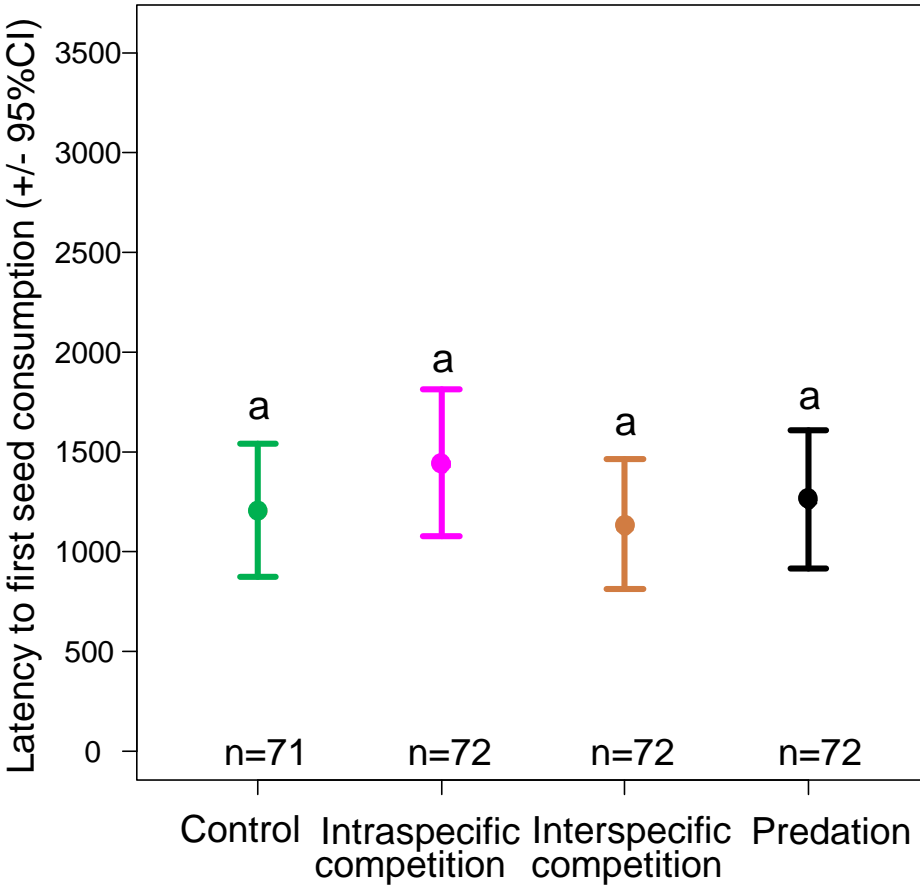
H. affinis accepts seeds earlier under predation risk

Observation: 1 hour



P. cupreus (N=288)

H. affinis (N=290)

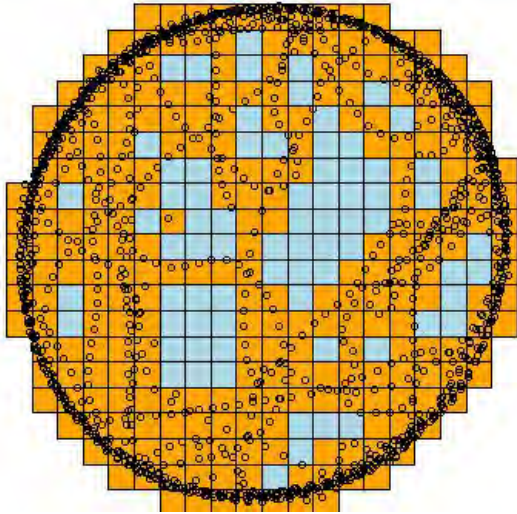


Overall, *P. cupreus* has lower choosiness for seeds of *T. officinale* than *H. affinis*

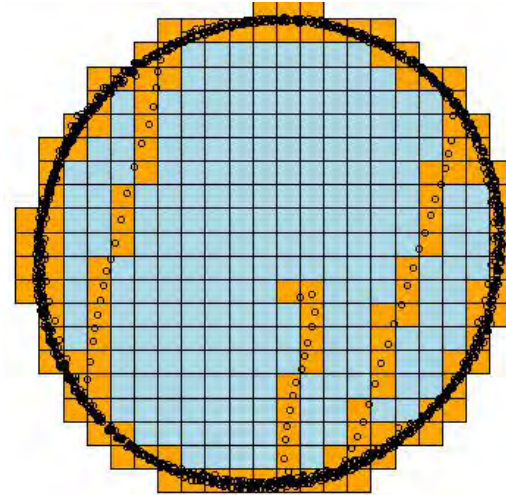
(Charalabidis et al., 2017; Charalabidis et al., 2019)

Space use did not differ between treatments for both carabid species

Two different potential scenarios:



Higher space use = higher seed encounter



Lower space use = lower seed encounter

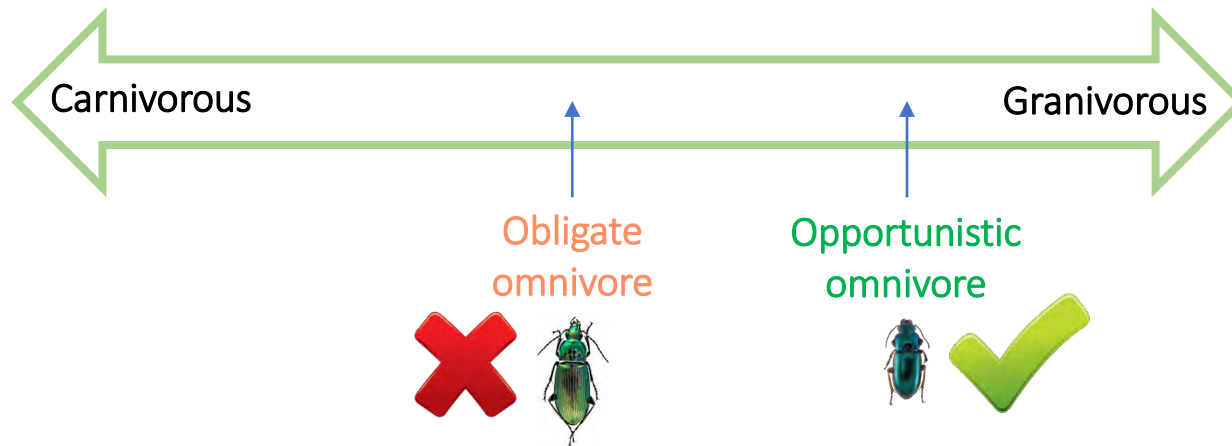
Space use:

- Did not differ between treatments (~60%)
- was similar between the two carabid species

Higher seed consumption is due to a reduction in level in choosiness rather than higher seed encounter

Do individuals adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter?

H: Both carabid species will adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter

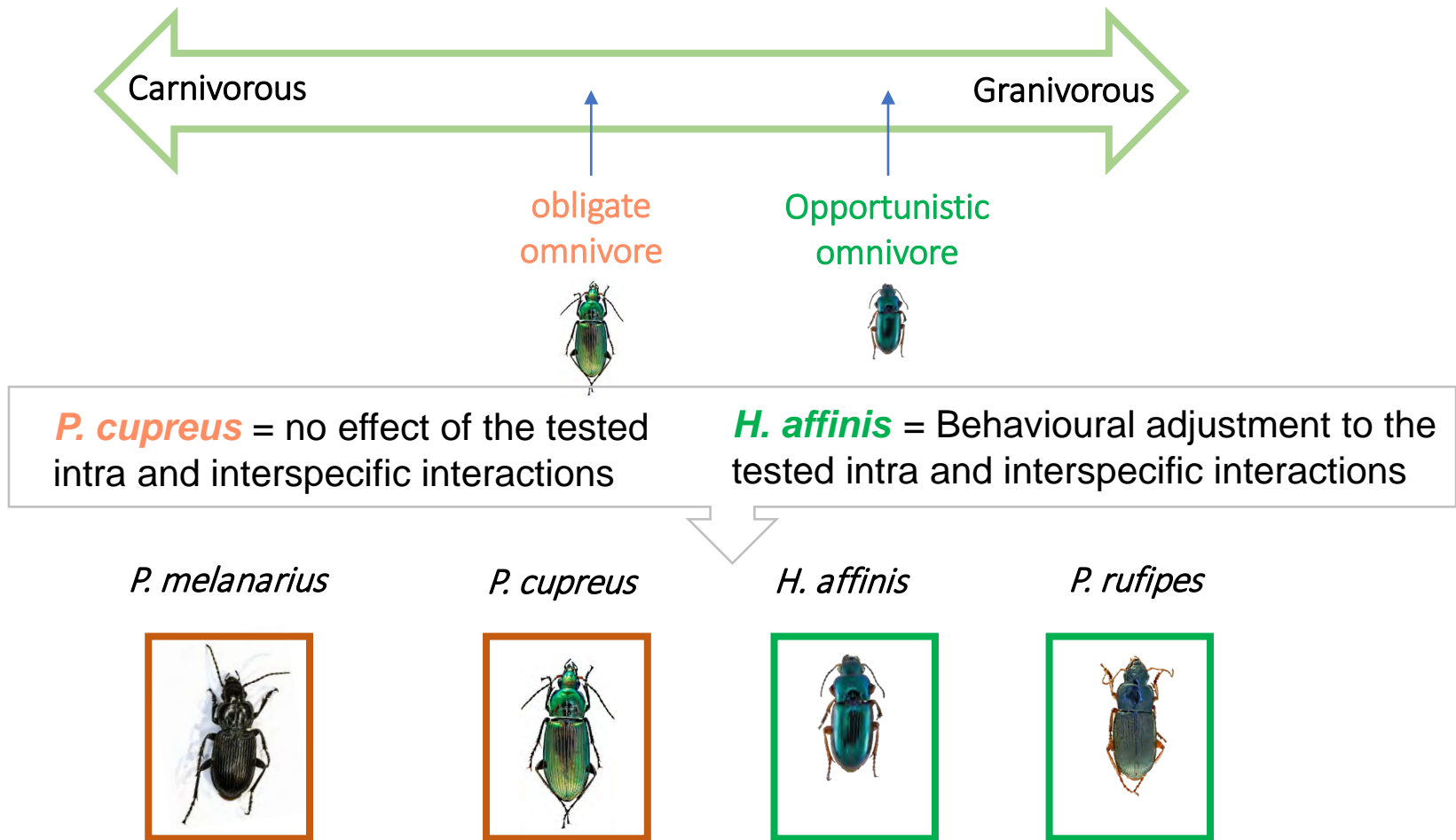


P. cupreus = no effect of the tested intra and interspecific interactions

H. affinis = Behavioural adjustment to the tested intra and interspecific interactions

Do individuals adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter?

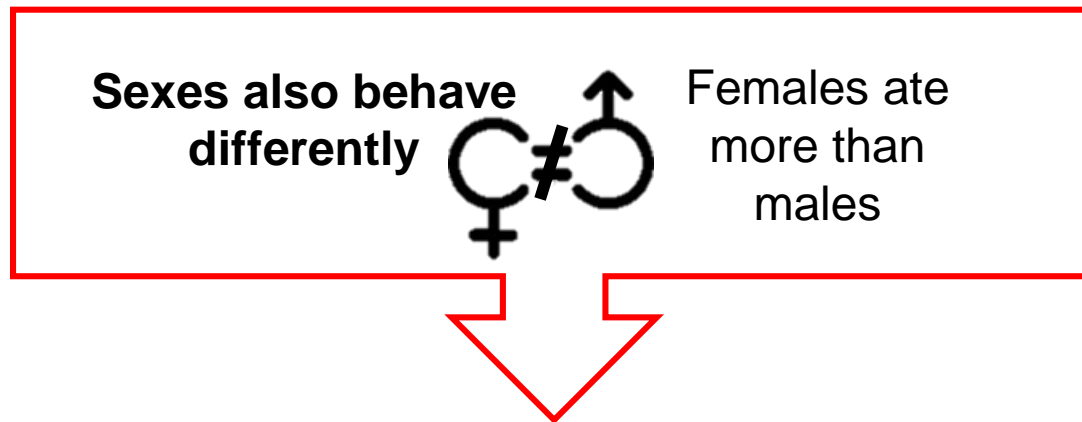
H: Both carabid species will adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter



Tribu : Pterostichini Bonelli, 1810 vs **Tribu :** Harpalini Bonelli, 1810

Do individuals adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter?

H: Both carabid species will adjust their level of choosiness according to the intra and interspecific interactions they encounter

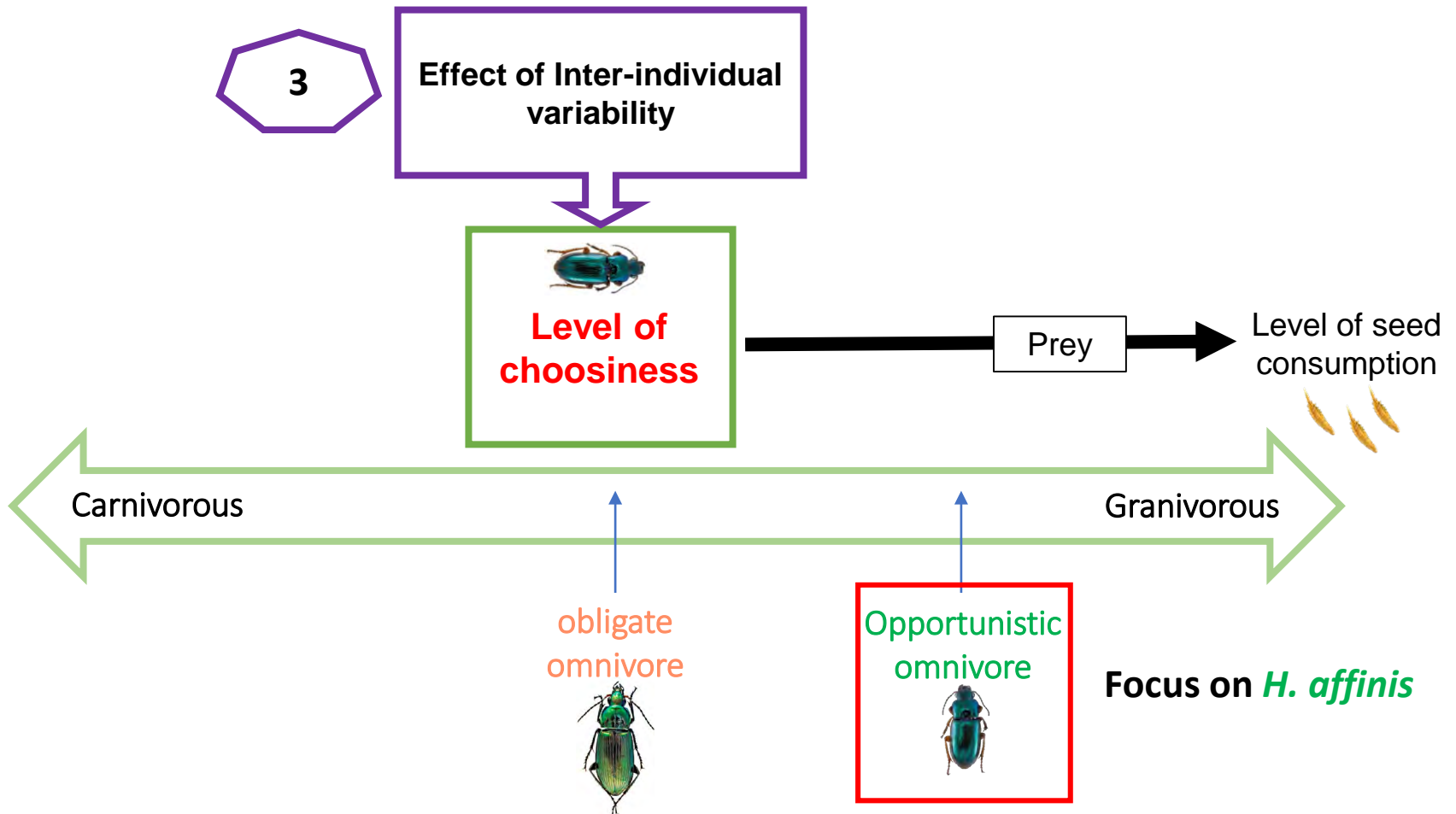


Sex differences in energetic requirement that could explain observed differences in total seed consumption in *H. affinis*?

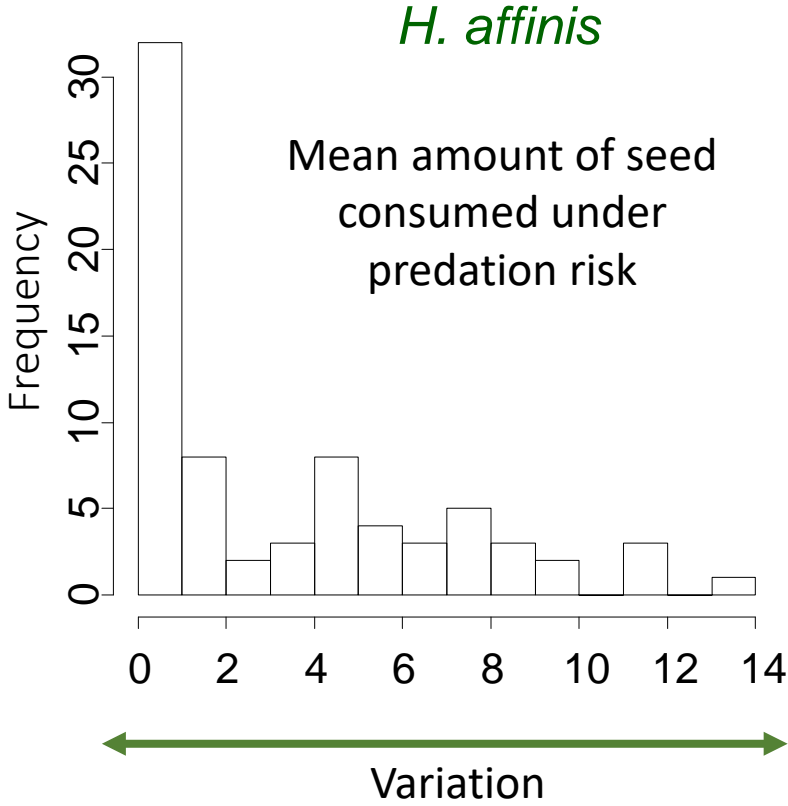
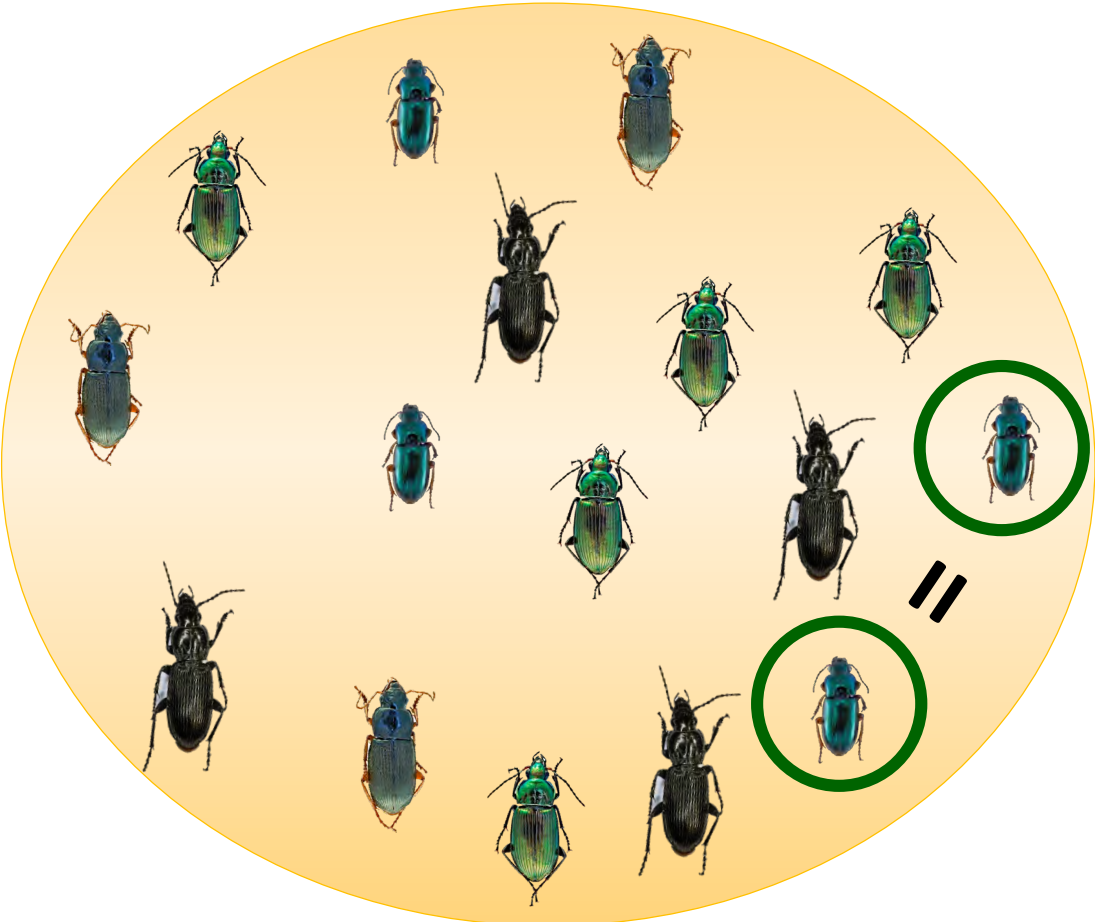
This result has also been observed in a different experiment + higher reduction in choosiness : Charalabidis et al. 2023

Do individuals differ in their level of choosiness for seeds

H: Level of choosiness will differ between carabids according to their **individual characteristics**

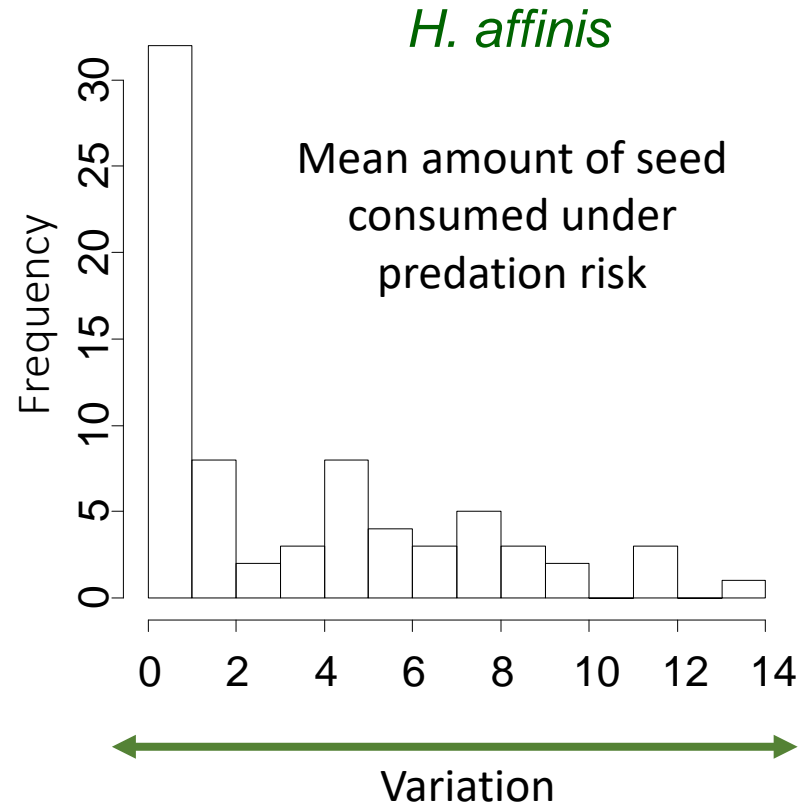
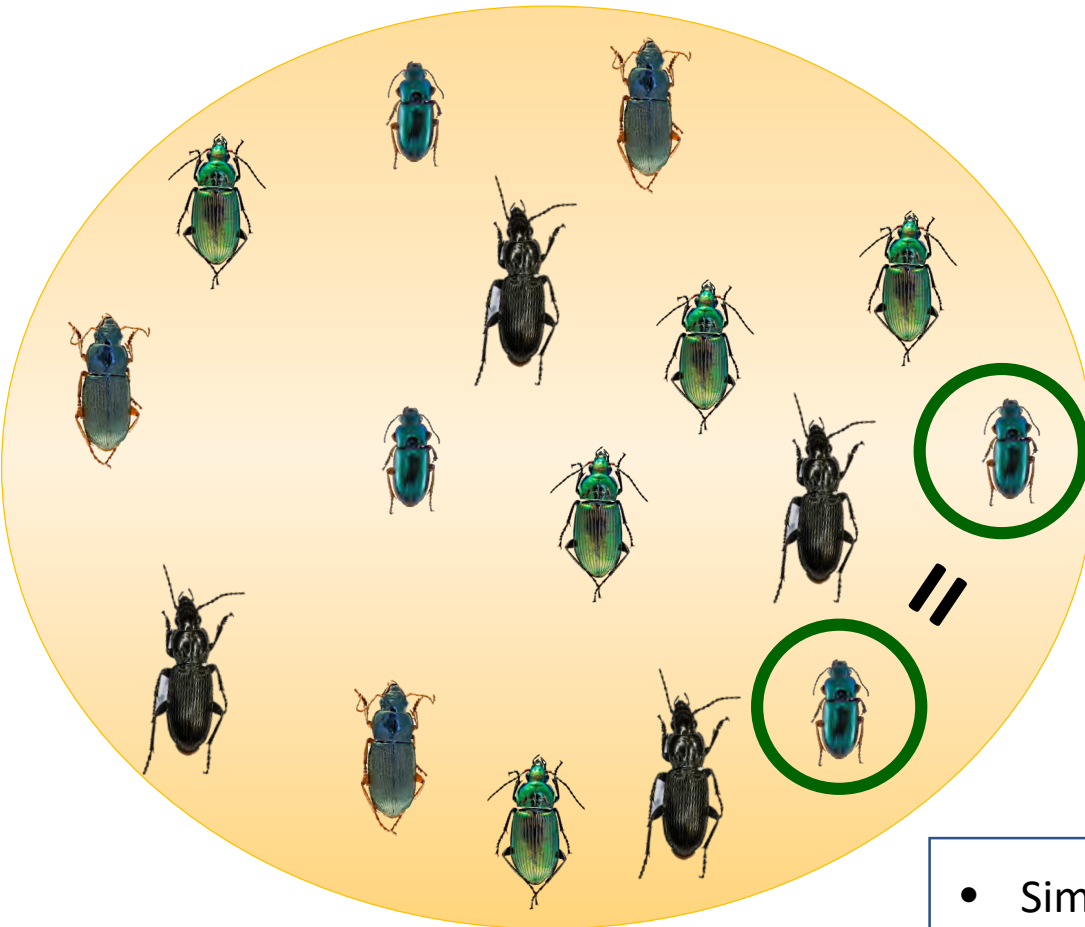


Results demonstrate inter-individual variability



Adapted from Charalabidis et al. 2017

Results demonstrate inter-individual variability

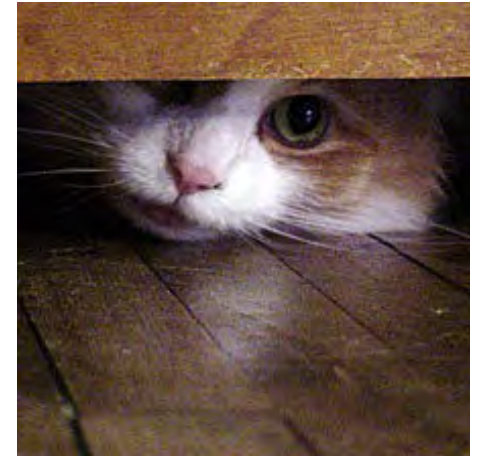


- Simple variation around an adaptive mean?
- Inter-individual variation in behaviour?

Do all individuals of a species follow a similar decision making process ?

Do personality traits exist in carabids and can they explain the observed variability in the level of choosiness?

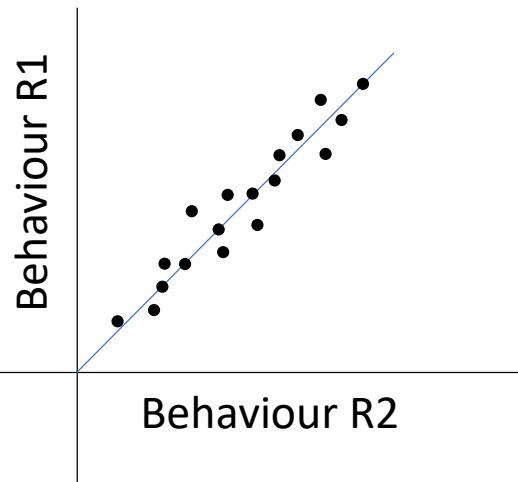
Animal personalities = Individual temperament



Proactive



Reactive

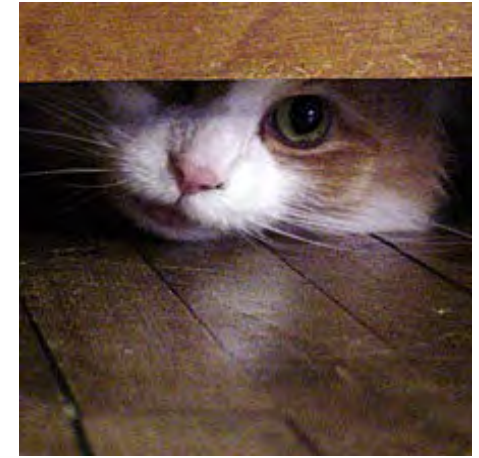


Repeatable patterns of individual behaviours that are consistent over time and across context

Exist across a wide variety of taxa
(Réale 2007)

Do personality traits exist in carabids and can they explain the observed variability in the level of choosiness?

Animal personalities = Individual temperament



Proactive

Explorer
Not neophobic
Fast

Reactive

Low explorer
Neophobic
Slow

Difference in personality traits may explain difference in level of choosiness

High risk tolerance

Higher consumption under predation risk

Low risk tolerance

Lower consumption under predation risk

(Koolhaas et al., 1999)

Proactive individuals show higher exploration behaviours than reactive ones



10 minutes video - recording



Harpalus affinis

N= 110

- Total distance moved:

Proactive

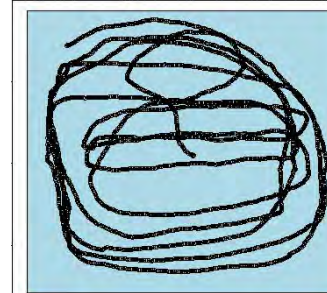


Reactive

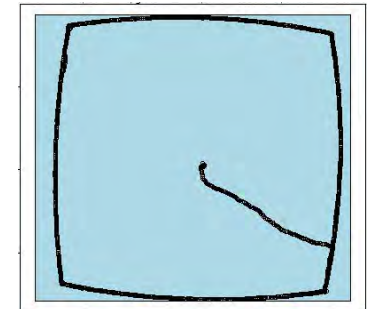


- Space use:

Proactive



Reactive



Same total distance moved but lower space use

Could morphological characteristics or sex differences explain variation in levels of choosiness?



Larger individuals have higher energetic requirements?



Females have higher energetic requirements?

Differ in risk tolerance?

Could morphological characteristics or sex differences explain variation in levels of choosiness?



Larger individuals have higher energetic requirements?



elytra size measurement



Females have higher energetic requirements?

Individual sex

Immunity traits could differ between wild individuals and between sex and impact individual levels of choosiness

Having high immune defense is costly



Immune activity has been shown to increase the overall energetic requirements of individuals

(Hess et al. 2015)

To maintain immunity, individuals may differ in their level of choosiness for food items



Higher level of choosiness to avoid investing time in bad quality items



Lower level of choosiness to ensure resource acquisition

Risk tolerance might also differ between individuals based on their immune traits

Sex differences and higher pathogen encounter rates and pesticide exposure could induce variation in individual immune defenses

Wild caught individuals used in test



Differ in pesticides exposure and encounter with pathogens

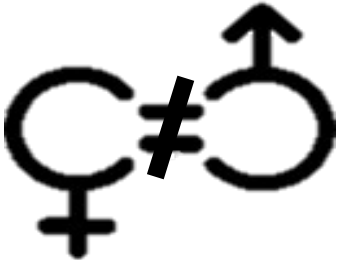
=

May differ in their immune defenses

(James & Xu, 2012)

Sex differences in immune traits were already shown in carabids

(Giglio et al., 2016,2017)



High variability in immune defenses could exist in our tested individuals

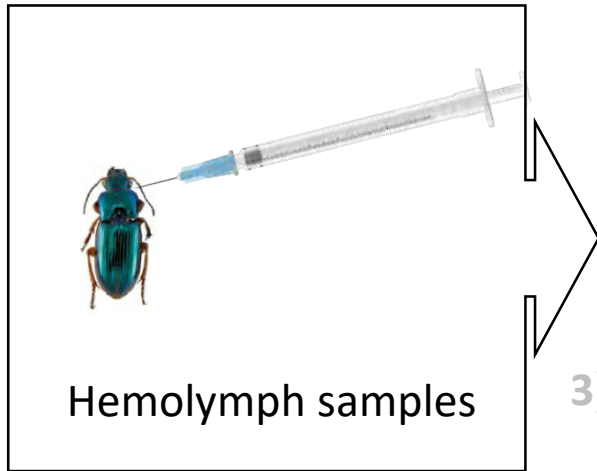
How to measure immunity traits in carabids: use of three key insect immune parameters



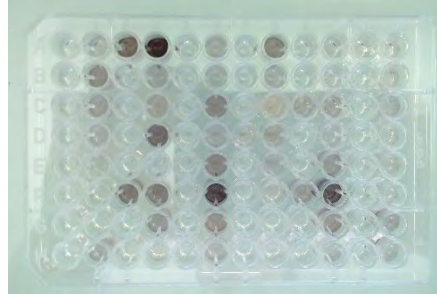
Harpalus affinis

N= 101

9 individuals died



1) Phenyloxidase (PO) activity and 2) total PO activity



+ ← **Enzymatic activity** → -

High total PO activity = High immune defenses

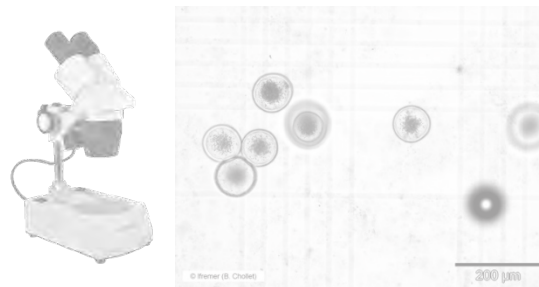
Innate immune defense
against intruding pathogens

-Enzymatic cascade-

Spectral absorbance

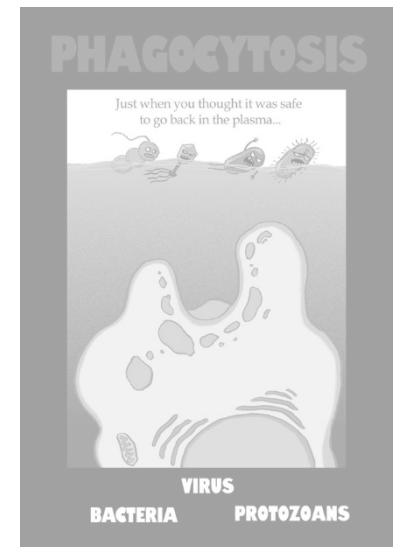


3) Concentration of circulating hemocytes



Invertebrate immune system cells

Cellular defenses like phagocytosis
and encapsulation



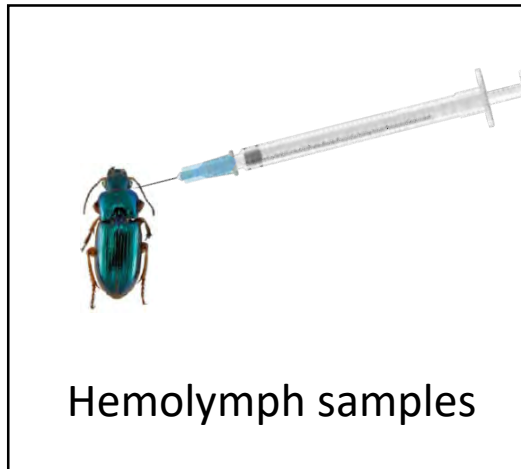
How to measure immunity traits in carabids: use of three key insect immune parameters



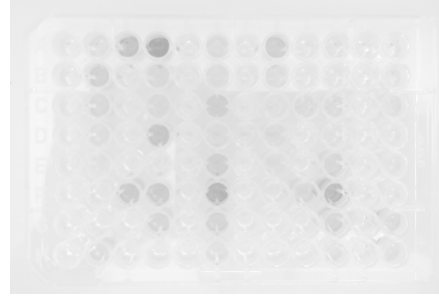
Harpalus affinis

N= 101

9 individuals died



1) Phenyloxidase (PO) activity and 2) total PO activity



+ ← **Enzymatic activity** → -

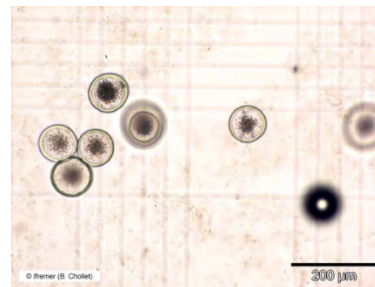
High total PO activity = High immune defenses

Innate immune defense against intruding pathogens
-Enzymatic cascade-

Spectral absorbance

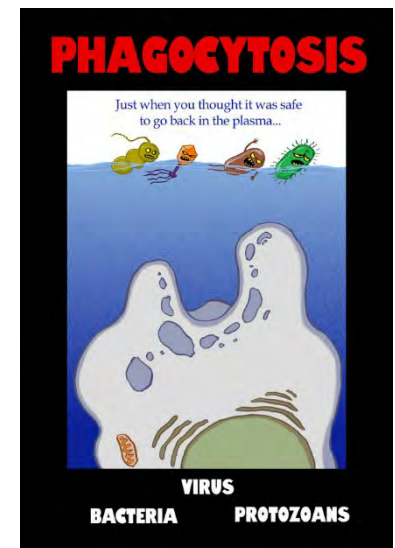


3) Concentration of circulating hemocytes



Invertebrate immune system cells

Cellular defenses like phagocytosis and encapsulation



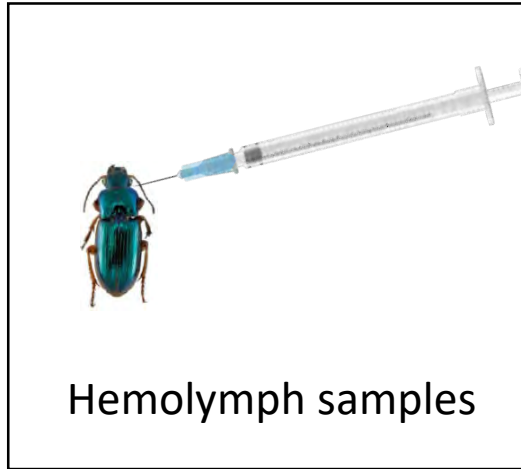
How to measure immunity traits in carabids: use of three key insect immune parameters



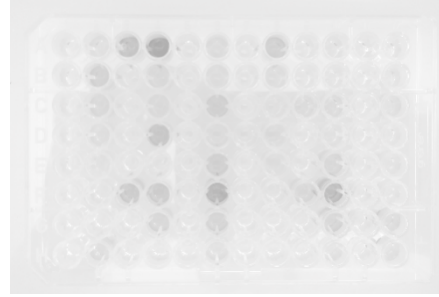
Harpalus affinis

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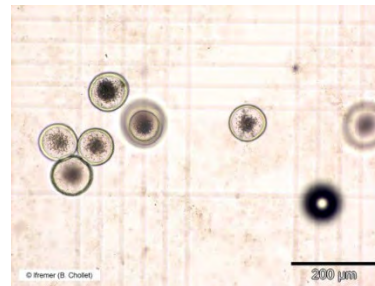
Innate immune defense against intruding pathogens

-Enzymatic cascade-

Spectral absorbance

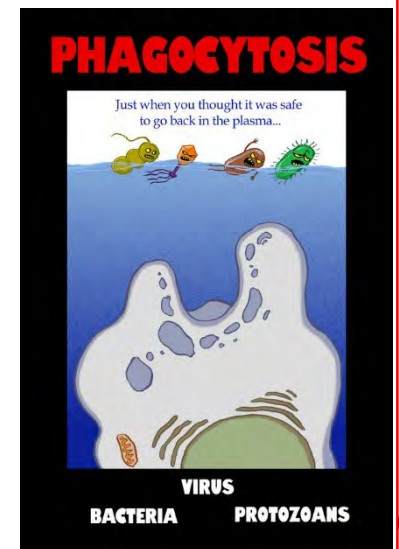


3) Concentration of circulating hemocytes

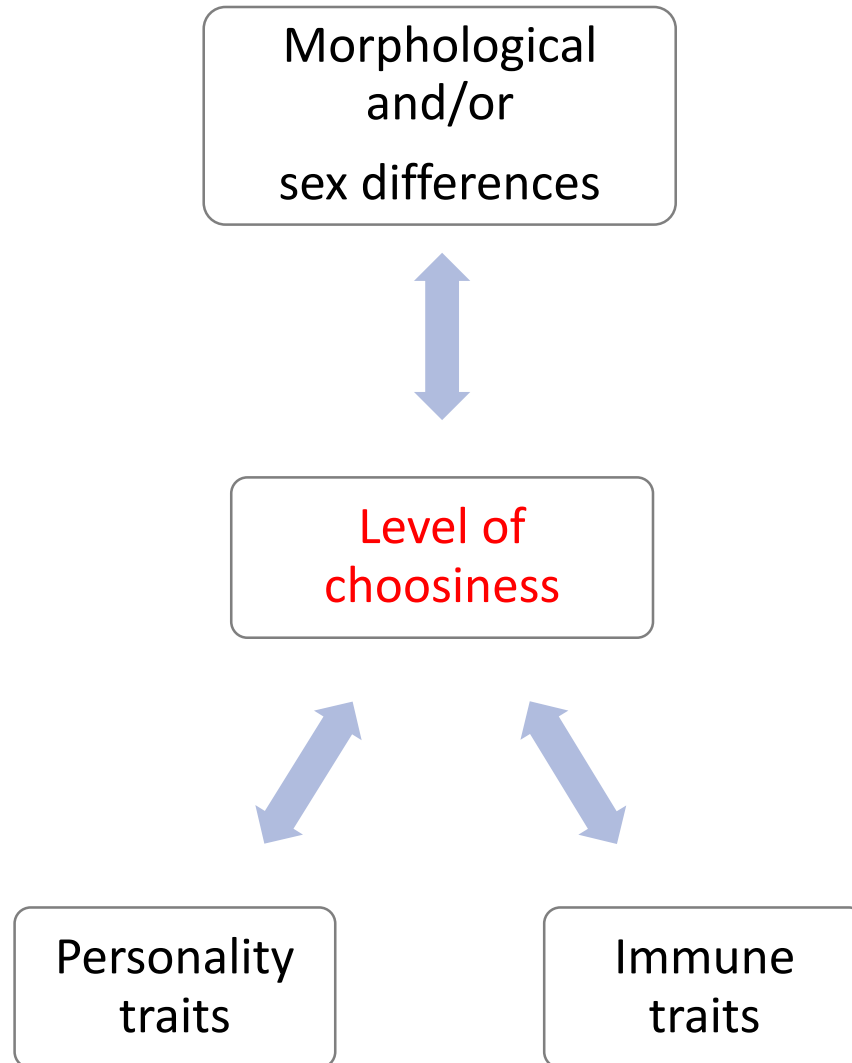


Invertebrate immune system cells

Cellular defenses like phagocytosis and encapsulation



Which combination of personality traits, morphological differences, sex differences and immunity traits best explain individuals variability in the level of choosiness?



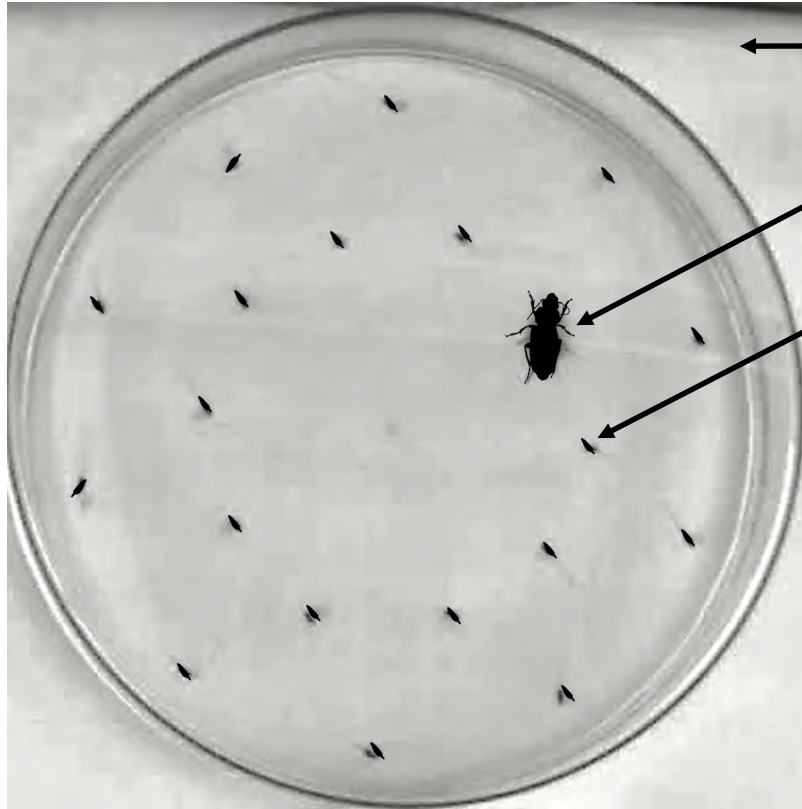
Measure of tested individual's level of choosiness



One hour recording



Only predation treatment



Impregnated paper

Focal Individual

Seeds (20)

Assessment of individual levels of choosiness:

Latency to first seed acceptance



Proportion of individuals eating (feeding motivation)



Harpalus affinis

N= 101

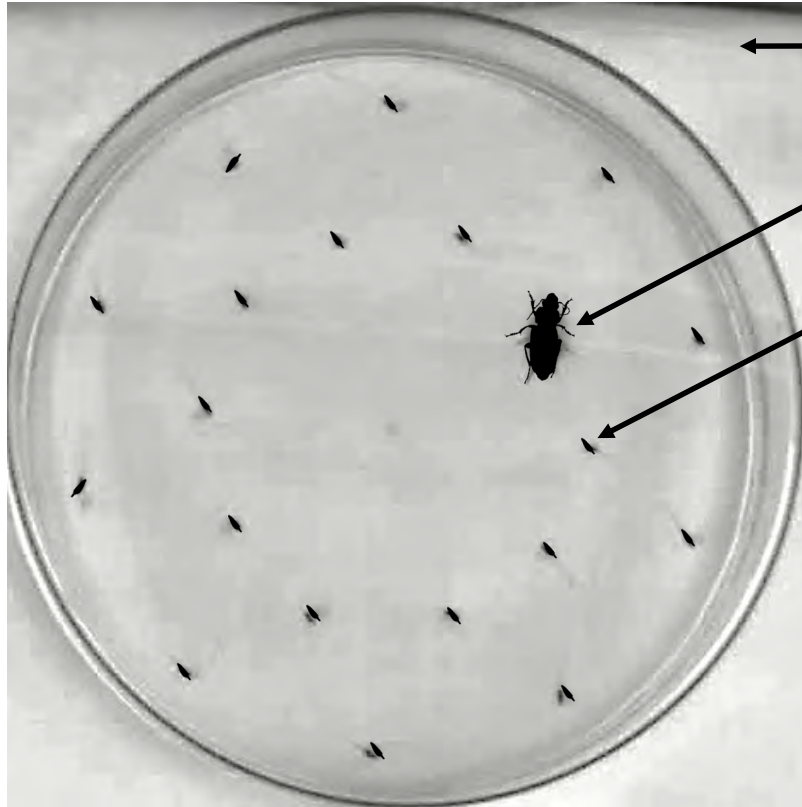
Measure of tested individual's level of choosiness



One hour recording



Only predation treatment



← Impregnated paper

← Focal Individual

← Seeds (20)

Assessment of individuals levels of choosiness:

Latency to first seed acceptance



Proportion of individuals eating (feeding motivation)

- Ate or not during the test



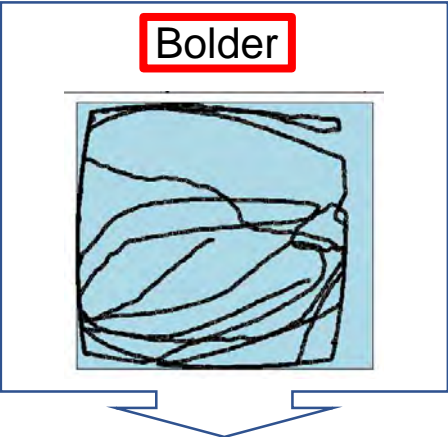
Harpalus affinis

N= 101

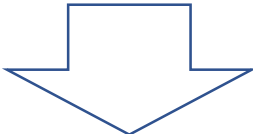
Personality could be linked to higher immune defenses and thus higher energetic requirements

(Real et al., 2010)

Pace-of-Life Syndrome hypothesis



Higher parasite-encounter rates



Higher immune system

Morphological and/or sex differences



Level of choosiness

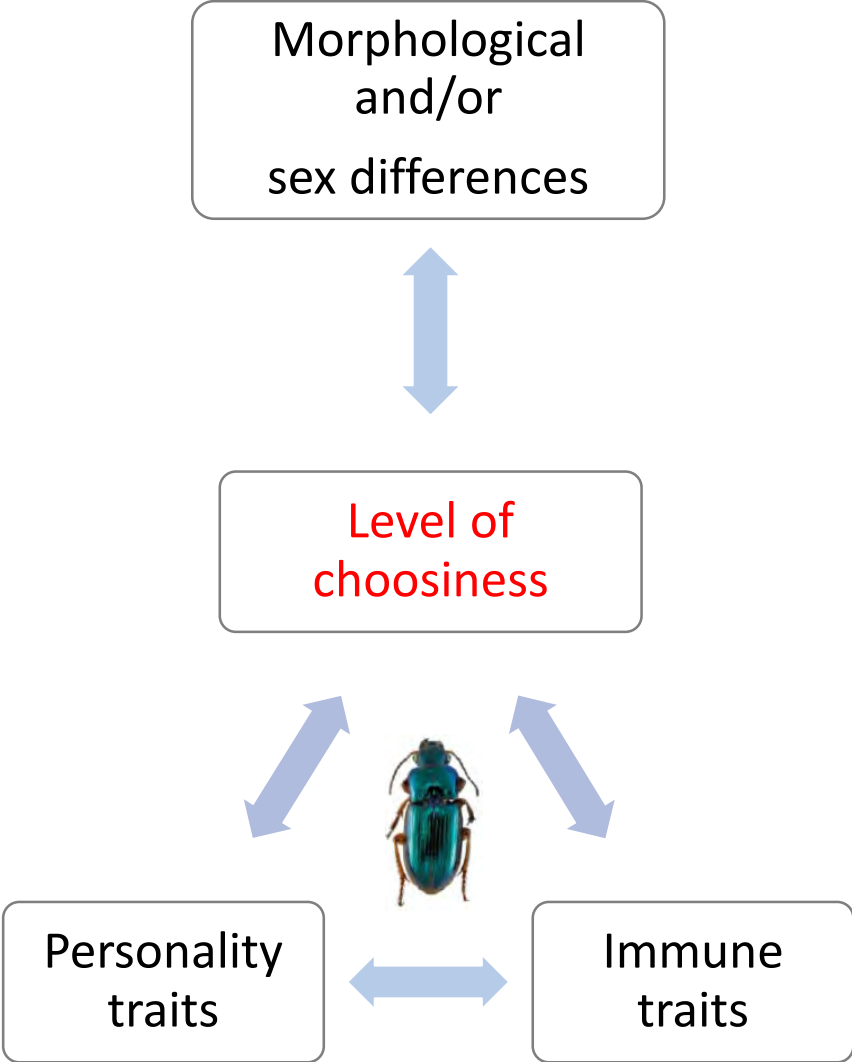


Personality traits



Immune traits

Which combination of personality traits, morphological differences, sex differences and immunity traits best explain individuals variability in the level of choosiness?



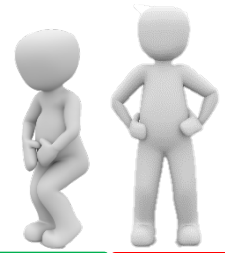
H. affinis individuals differ in personality



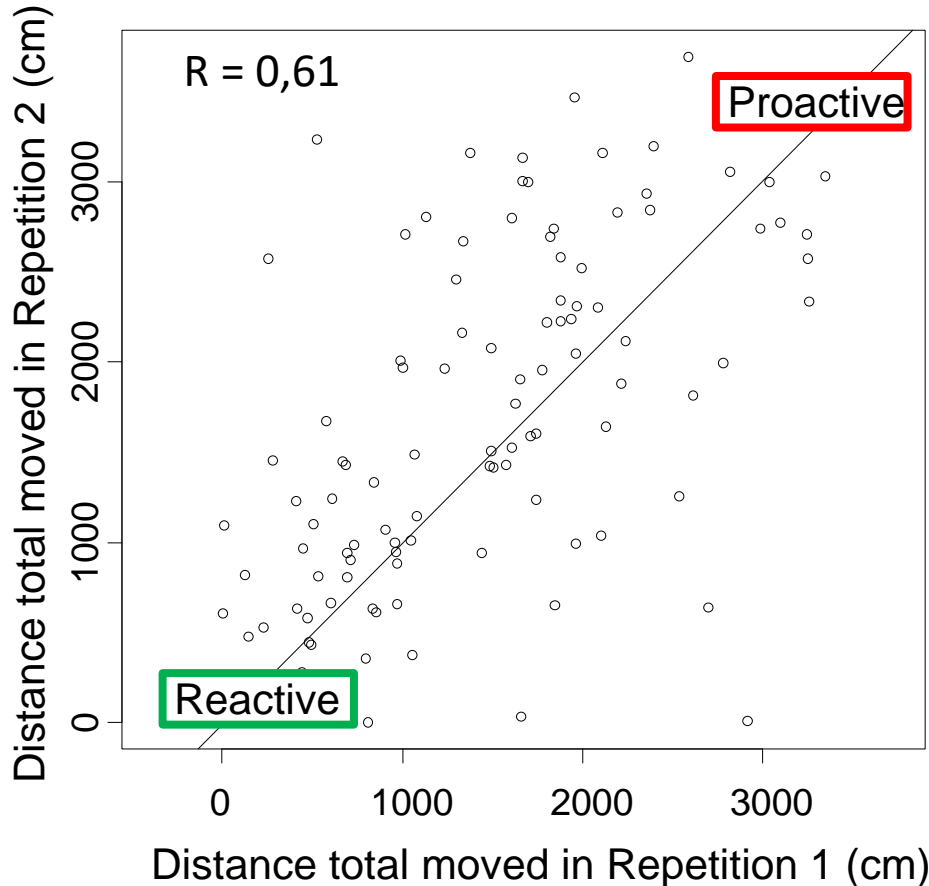
Harpalus affinis
N= 110



10 minutes video - recording



Reactive Proactive



Highly repeatable traits
High variability between individuals



H. affinis individuals differ in personality

No sex effect – No effect of size

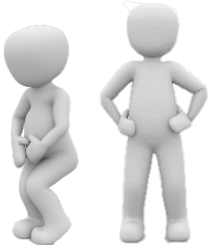
Differences in levels of choosiness are not explained by personality traits in *H. affinis*



One hour recording



Harpalus affinis
N= 101



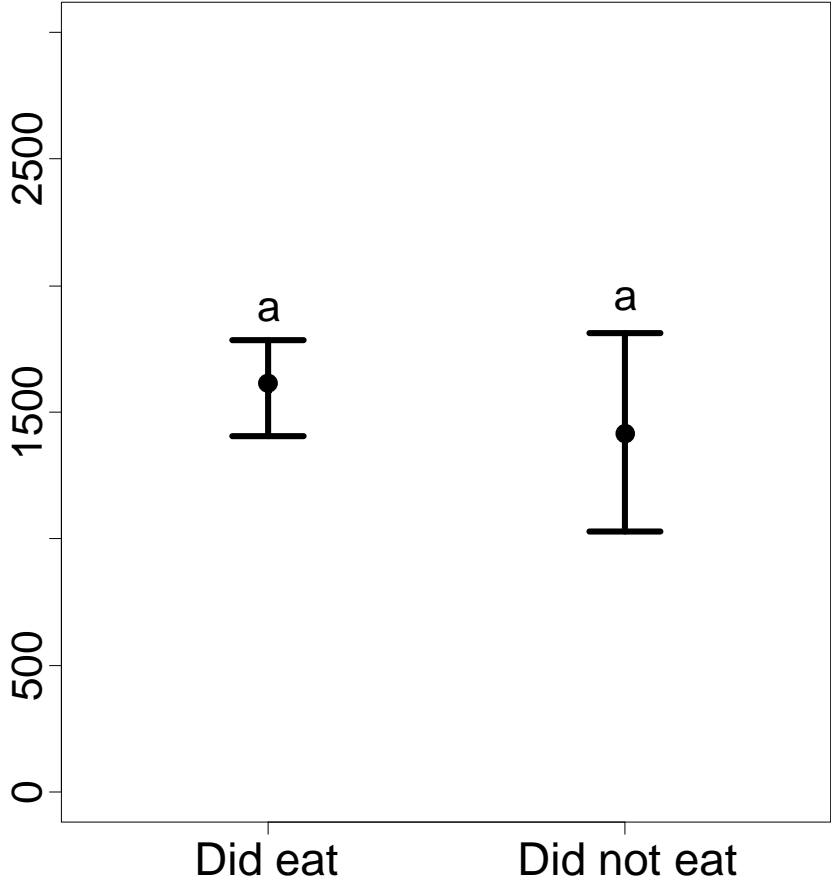
Reactive Proactive

Proactive



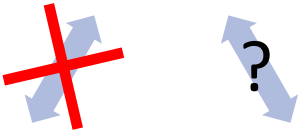
Reactive

Distance total moved (cm) (+/- 95%CI)



Personality did not impact individual level of choosiness

Level of choosiness



Personality traits

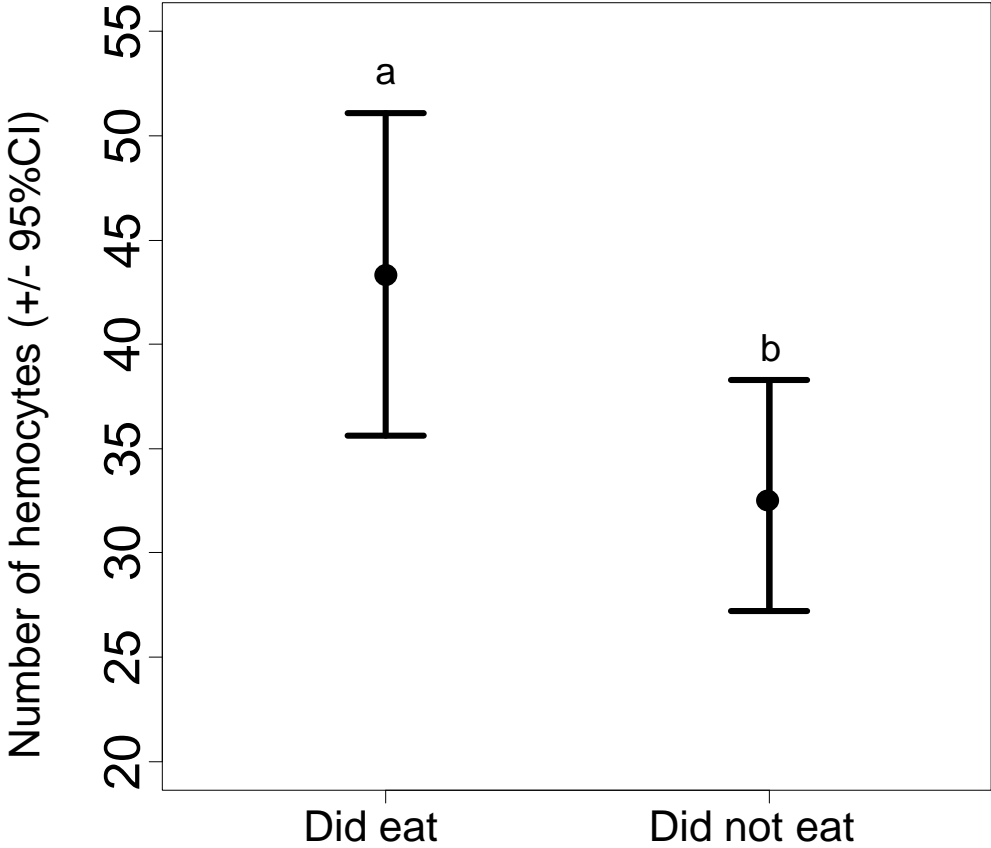


Immune traits

Number of hemocytes was related to individual levels of choosiness



Harpalus affinis
N= 101

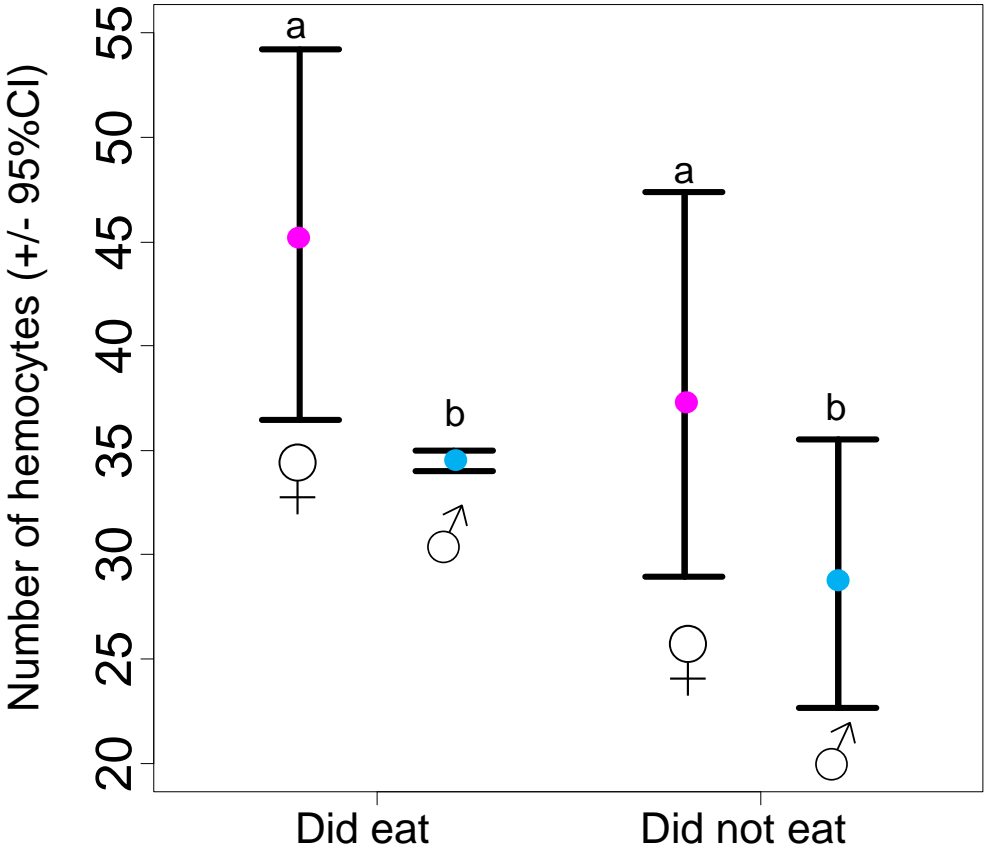


Link between number of hemocytes and level of choosiness was a sex effect

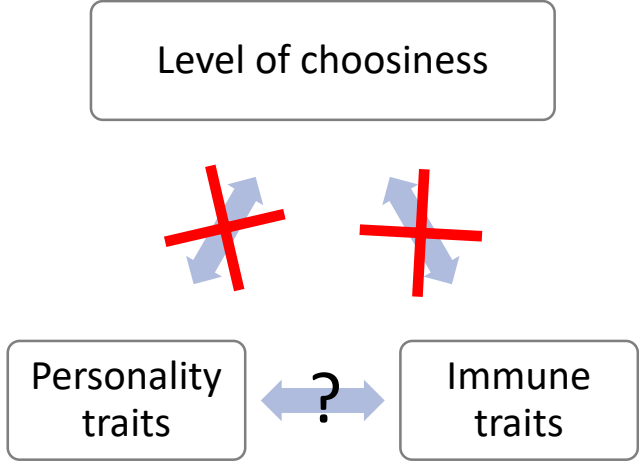


Harpalus affinis
N= 101

♀ n= 47
 ♂ n= 54



Number of hemocytes (immune traits) did not impact carabid level of choosiness

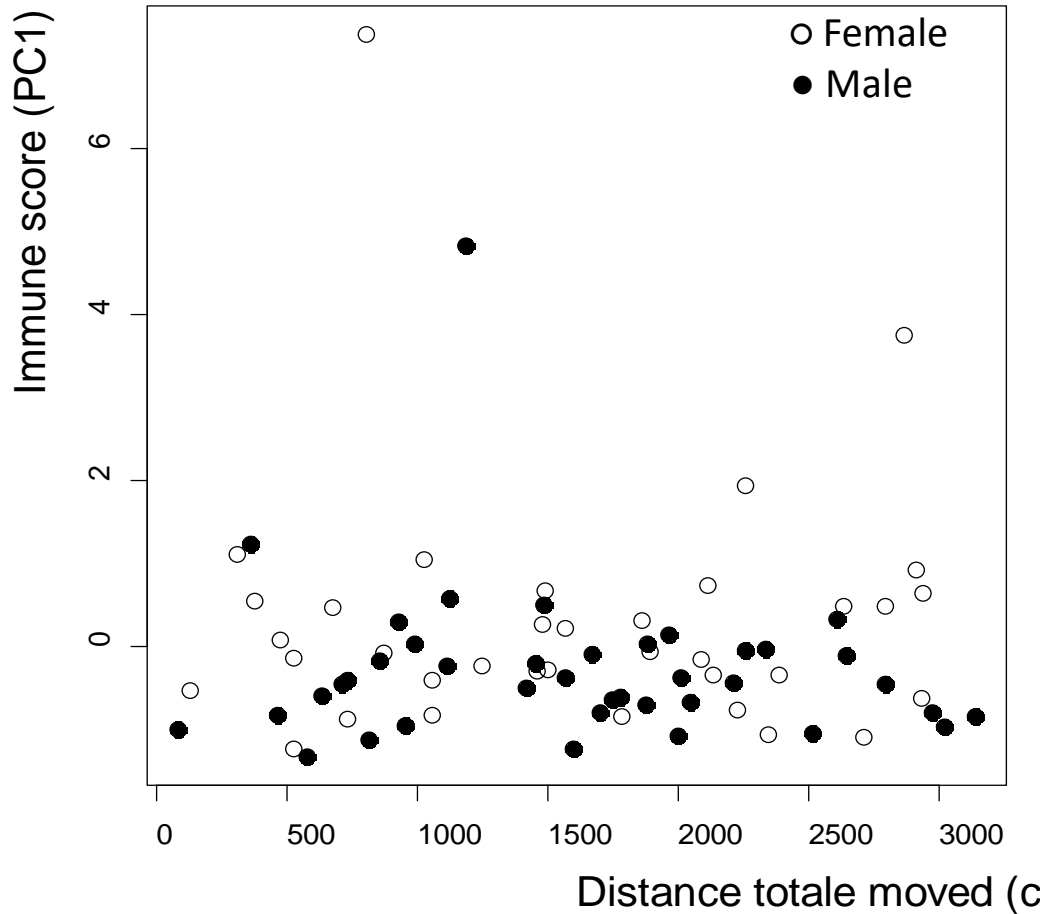


No link between carabid immune scores and personality



Harpalus affinis

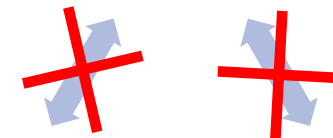
N= 101



Individual immune score is not linked to personality trait

Our results contradict the Pace-of-Life Syndrome hypothesis:

Level of choosiness



Personality traits



Immune traits

Reactive

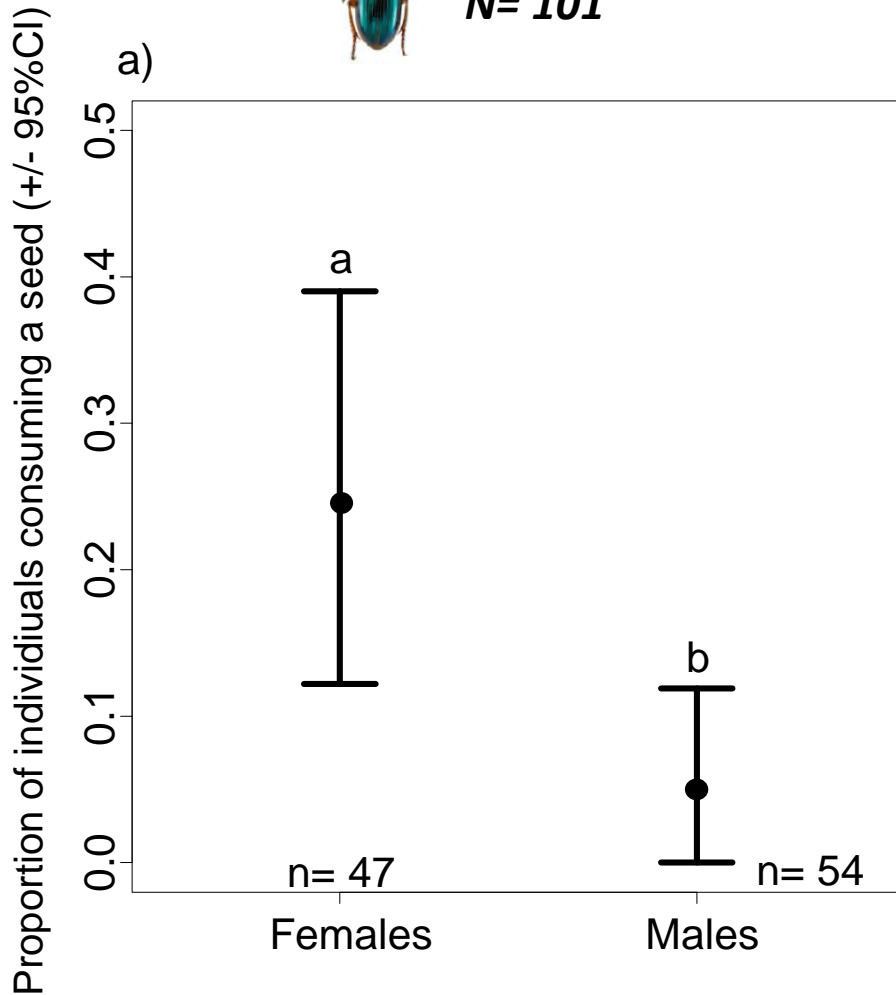


Proactive

Levels of choosiness differed between the sexes



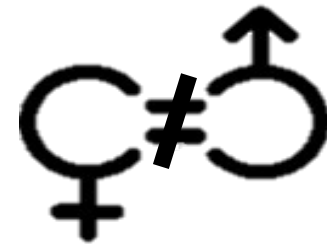
Harpalus affinis
N= 101



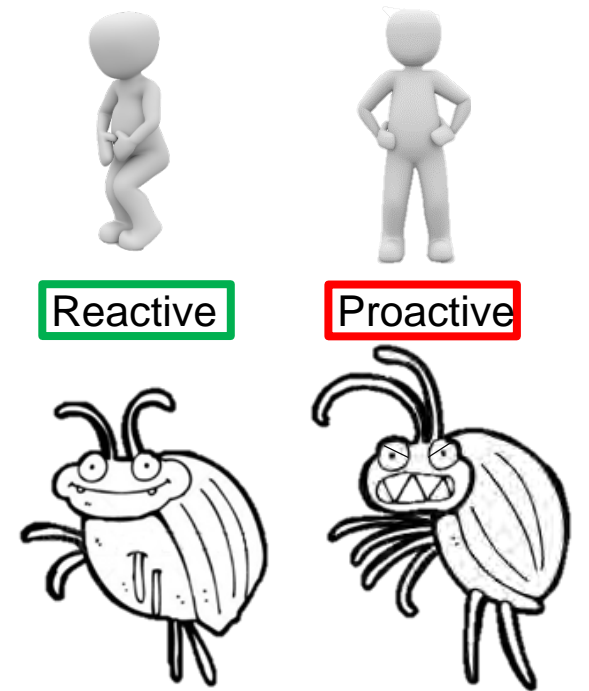
Females ate earlier and ate more in comparison to males

No effect of size in level of choosiness

Bigger females did not eat more than smaller ones



Which combination of personality traits, morphological differences, sex differences and immunity traits best explain individuals variability in the level of choosiness?



Personality traits exist
in carabids

Which combination of personality traits, morphological differences, sex differences and immunity traits best explain individuals variability in the level of choosiness?

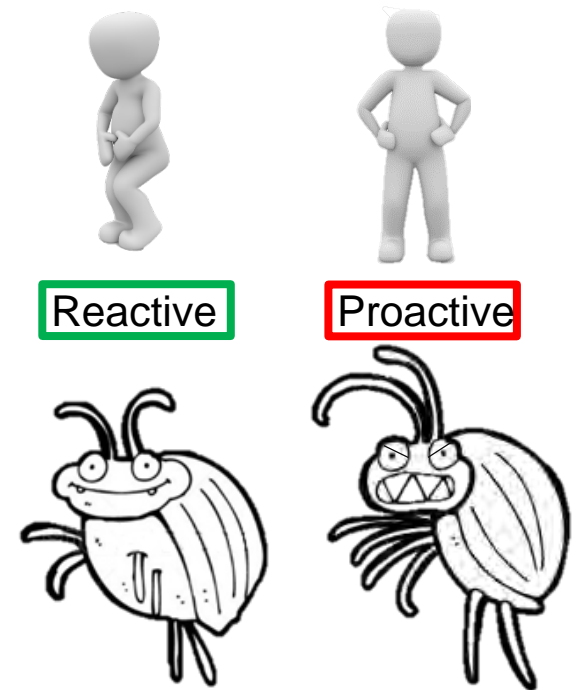
Level of choosiness



Personality traits



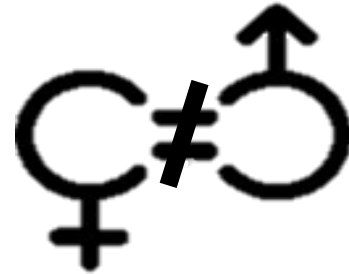
Immune traits



Personality traits exist in carabids

Which combination of personality traits, morphological differences, sex differences and immunity traits best explain individuals variability in the level of choosiness?

Morphological
and/or
sex differences



Females eat more than
males



Reactive



Proactive

Level of
choosiness



Personality traits exist
in carabids



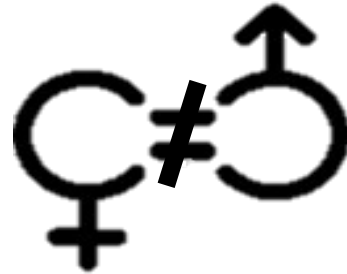
Personality
traits



Immune
traits

Which of personality traits, morphological differences, sex or immunity traits best explain individuals variability in level of choosiness?

Morphological
and/or
sex differences



Females eat more than
males



Reactive



Proactive

Level of
choosiness

- Wrong metric to assess choosiness?
- Effect of the season?



Personality traits exist
in carabids

Personality
traits



Immune
traits



Improve our understanding of carabid feeding choices

1

Do carabid seed-eating **species** differ in their decision making process?

- Carabid species appear to have different foraging strategies
e. g. High vs Low sensitivity to competitive or predatory interactions

Complementarity in seed-eating species for their contribution to weed seed predation?

Eat some seeds readily

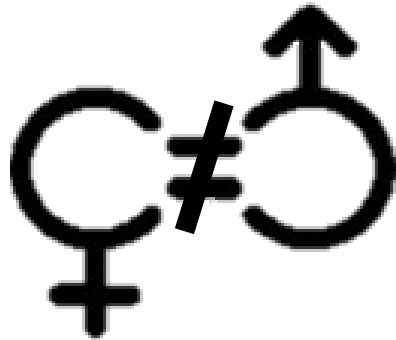
Do not eat seeds



But can impact other species level of choosiness

Major effect of sex and perspectives

Eggs could be more costly than sperm explaining the differences observed between sex (Hayward & Gillooly, 2011)



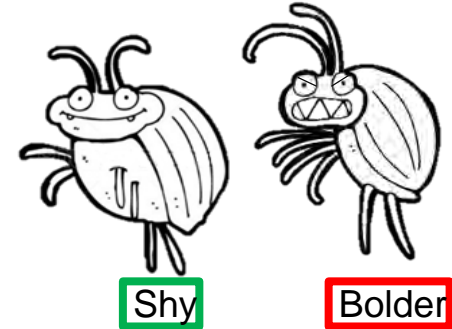
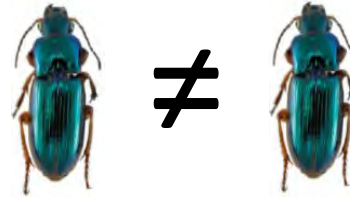
Effect of the season on change of choosiness?



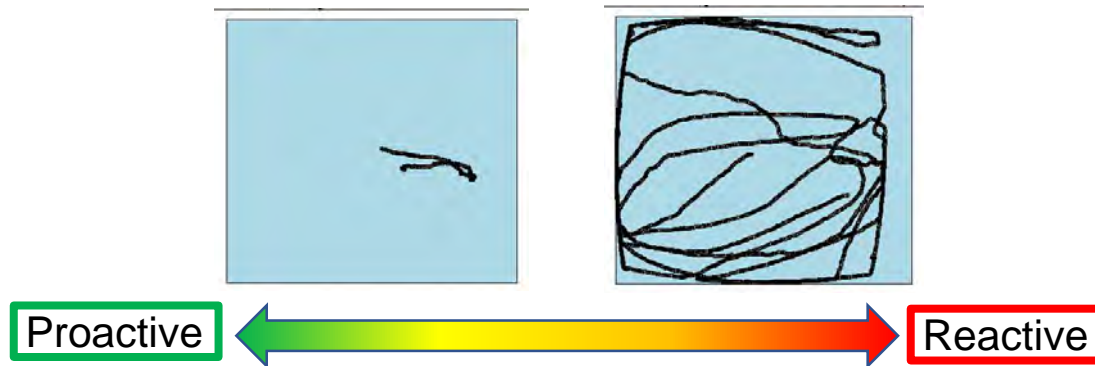
Temporal monitoring of change in level of choosiness in carabids

Perspectives and personality traits in carabids

Personality exists in carabids



Is linked to exploration behaviour → might be linked to dispersal



Effect of environmental quality on carabids personality? (Tremmel & Muller, 2013)

Exploration behaviour, and thus dispersal tendency, could be linked to individuals status

Use of behavioural data on biocontrol

Objective of Biological control: A **reliable and effective** ecosystem **service** to reduce use of chemical inputs, such as pesticides



Carabids and seeds of weeds

Individual scale

Behavioural flexibility

Species interactions

Choosiness

Knowledge of an individual behaviour could help to improve biological control

Acknowledgments



David Bohan
F-X Dechaume-Moncharmont
Sandrine Petit
Stephane Derocles
Benjamin Carbonne

