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Michael Taborsky, Dr. phil. nat.

Professor em. of Behavioural Ecology

Universität Bern

Born in 1955 in Leoben, Austria

Studied Zoology, Botany, Earth Sciences, and Philosophy at the University of Vienna and Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich)

ARBEITSVORHABEN

The Evolution of Societies

Societies predominate in life on earth. This can be illustrated, for instance, by comparing the biomass of different species of animals, with ants, termites, and humans seeming to win the race, featuring arguably the most highly organized societies we know. These enormously successful societies are characterised by well-regulated social interactions, enhanced degrees of cooperation and altruism, differentiation among group members, and highly developed division of labour. But what makes them thrive? What renders them stable? Which evolutionary forces shape societies, and which behavioural attributes and interactions are associated with complex social organisations?

Social organisation in nature shows a great variety of forms, ranging from loose aggregations of anonymous units all the way up to highly organised societies. The aim of this project is to pinpoint the common principles responsible for the evolution of these different forms of social organisation and the environmental and intrinsic properties underlying the established diversity.

Societies consist of individuals basically serving as independent units of selection. As survival and reproduction require resources and only fiction knows a land of milk and honey, different individuals inevitably compete due to their own diverging fitness interests. The crucial question is how the conflict of fitness interests can be mediated in order to allow competitors for resources to unite and benefit from collective goal pursuit.

Central building blocks of stable societies include the exchange of information between the respective units. Interactions between the members of societies involve the release and perception of cues and signals using various sensory modalities and behavioural actions and reactions yielding corresponding fitness consequences. Natural selection acts on the "decision rules" governing responses to information obtained from the social environment within specific contextual frameworks.

Recommended Reading

Taborsky, Michael, Joachim G. Frommen, and Christina Riehl (2016). "Correlated Pay-Offs Are Key to Cooperation." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 371: 20150084. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rstb.2015.0084>.

Taborsky, Michael, Michael A. Cant, and Jan Komdeur (2021). *The Evolution of Social Behaviour*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Garcia-Ruiz, Irene, Andrés Quiñones, and Michael Taborsky (2022). "The Evolution of Cooperative Breeding by Direct and Indirect Fitness Effects." *Science Advances* 8, no. 21: eabl7853. <https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.abl7853>.

Die Evolution des Sozialverhaltens

Sozialverhalten und die Organisation von Gesellschaften sind in der Natur äußerst mannigfaltig. Wie lässt sich diese enorme Diversität im Lichte der natürlichen Selektion erklären? Ich werde Prinzipien vorstellen, die der Evolution des Sozialverhaltens in all ihren unterschiedlichen Ausprägungen zugrunde liegen.

Die Welt dreht sich um die Konkurrenz um Ressourcen. Organismen jeglicher Art konkurrieren um die Verfügbarkeit der Mittel, die ihnen erlauben, zu überleben und sich fortzupflanzen. Es gibt kein Schlaraffenland. Im Wettbewerb um notwendige Ressourcen haben diejenigen die Oberhand, die entweder schneller sind als die anderen, die sich im Wettstreit besser durchsetzen können, oder die es verstehen, mit anderen zusammenzuarbeiten und das Erlangte zu teilen. Ich möchte aufzeigen, welche Umweltbedingungen und inhärenten Merkmale die eine oder andere Vorgehensweise nahelegen. Dabei richte ich mein Augenmerk hauptsächlich auf die Evolutionsmechanismen, die der Kooperation zwischen Artgenossen zugrunde liegen. Die Kernfrage ist hierbei, wodurch erreicht wird, dass sich trotz immanenter Asymmetrien und im Widerstreit stehender "Fitnessinteressen" die Mitglieder einer Gesellschaft zusammentun, um gemeinsam ein Ziel zu erreichen.

Taborsky, Michael (London,2022)

Group augmentation on trial: helpers in small groups enhance antipredator defence of eggs

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818074265>

Taborsky, Michael (Oxford,2022)

Norway rats help social partners in need in response to ultrasonic begging signals

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818051486>

Taborsky, Michael (Washington, DC,2022)

The evolution of cooperative breeding by direct and indirect fitness effects

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1814334505>

Taborsky, Michael (London,2020)

The smell of cooperation : rats increase helpful behaviour when receiving odour cues of a conspecific performing a cooperative task

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818064820>

Taborsky, Michael (London,2020)

Commodity-specific punishment for experimentally induced defection in cooperatively breeding fish

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818052423>

Taborsky, Michael (Lawrence, KS,2020)

The smell of hunger : Norway rats provision social partners based on odour cues of need

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1814330453>

Taborsky, Michael (London,2019)

Pathogen defence is a potential driver of social evolution in ambrosia beetles

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1814331611>

Taborsky, Michael (Washington, DC,2018)

Alternative male morphs solve sperm performance/longevity trade-off in opposite directions

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818071053>

Taborsky, Michael (London,2018)

Reciprocal trading of different commodities in Norway rats

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818069016>

Taborsky, Michael (Cambridge,2016)

Cichlid fishes : a model for the integrative study of social behavior

<https://kxp.k1oplus.de/DB=9.663/PPNSET?PPN=1818075008>