



MAN HAT SCHON PFERDE KOTZEN SEHEN
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Hannah is a Max Planck Research Group Leader at the Institute of Chemical Ecology in Jena. She studied for her first degree in Zoology and for her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at the University of Liverpool. In 2008, Hannah received two awards for her Ph.D. research: the Thomas Henry Huxley Award and Marsh Prize from the Zoological Society of London, and the Alfred Russell Wallace Award from the UK's Royal Entomological Society. Hannah completed four years of postdoctoral research at Liverpool and Glasgow before being elected a Junior Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge University. She subsequently held a joint lectureship and fellowship at Cambridge's Zoology Department and the Zoological Society of London's Institute of Zoology. Hannah joined the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in summer 2017. Hannah has researched the evolution of animal colours involved in predator-prey interactions and published her findings in *Nature* and *Science*. Her research interests now focus on the adaptations of predators that eat toxic prey. – Address: Max-Planck-Institut für chemische Ökologie, Hans Knöll Straße 8, Jena 07745. E-mail: hrowland@ice.mpg.de.

“Here’s a good phrase for you to learn,” said Inga Geipel, a fellow College for Life Sciences Fellow, “Man hat schon Pferde kotzen sehen.” One has already seen horses vomit.

In England the closest phrase we have to this is the much less colourful “stranger things have happened”. This was the end of my first lunch at the Wissenschaftskolleg on the 10th November 2017. At the time, neither Inga nor I realised the relevance that this funny idiom had for my Fellowship.

I'd been meant to come to Wiko in 2015/16 as part of Tim Caro's Focus Group on animal colouration. Alas, it didn't happen. I was appointed to a lectureship at Cambridge, and I wasn't able to take ten months away from my new job. I did manage to visit Wiko briefly in 2016 and participated in the Focus Group workshop on the biology of colour. I got to see what could have been and left Berlin thinking I'd probably missed an opportunity.

Fast forward to May 2017. I had left my lectureship at Cambridge and was getting ready to start as a Max Planck Research Group Leader in Chemical Ecology in Jena. *DING*; Berlin calling! I got an e-mail from Kathrin Biegger telling me that, due to a cancellation, a Fellowship slot had opened up for September to December; had my circumstances changed, and would I be interested to come to Berlin.

Back in 2015/16 I'd planned to work on a project about the evolution of colours for antipredator defence. My interests had evolved since then, and I had developed a greater interest in the behaviour of predators. I came to Wiko with the aim of researching the chemical ecology of predation: to focus on predatory responses to cues released by prey and on predator tolerance of the chemicals that prey have evolved as defences.

I did spend most of my time sequestered away in Villa Jaffé researching this project. It was an especially wet autumn and winter, which made it easy to sit indoors, only venturing out to follow the scent trail of lunch like a foraging ant, or to pop down the stairs in my slippers for German grammar lessons in the Villa Jaffé Clubraum. However, and in keeping with my new idiom, a surprise project emerged during my stay.

Over breakfast on a Thursday morning, Inga and I started to talk about predators responding to eating toxins by vomiting, and other animals that vomit, and the evolution of the reflex. Off we marched to the Weiße Villa to visit Stefan Gellner in the library office. "Hi Stefan, we wonder if you could do a literature search for us? On animals that vomit." We wonder if this is the strangest request that Stefan has ever received.

What else did I do during my brief Fellowship? I visited former Fellows, Barbara Caspers and Andy Higginson, in Bielefeld and Exeter; I discussed a new collaboration with Maik Behrens at the German Institute of Human Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbrücke (DIfE); and I advertised for my first postdoc and Ph.D. student. I reviewed over 100 applications and interviewed a shortlist of excellent candidates. Amy Eacock and Cecilia Heyworth are now both here with me in Jena, doing great work on predators and prey.

I am also grateful for the extracurricular opportunities afforded by the Fellowship, which left me recharged and ready to lead my new group. I read several novels; I swam the equivalent of the English Channel crossing; I explored Berlin food markets with tips

from and vibrant discussion with Glenn Penny; I discovered the fantastic Berlin museums and art galleries; I enjoyed Wednesday salads and Thursday dinners; I eavesdropped on the most beautiful piano playing by Andreas Staier; I made my first trip to the Berlin Philharmonic; and I frequented the Weihnachtsmarkt. At Wiko I listened to colloquia on Bach, human rights, the history of plantations, the Last Eukaryote Common Ancestor (LECA), and football-playing bees. I also shared a temporary home in Villa Jaffé with the most interesting and inspiring people.

What did people say to me about Wiko before I arrived? Unquestionably, GO! It's also what I now find myself saying to others. "Definitely go if you can," I said to a professor friend who skyped to ask about Wiko: "It seems too good to be true," she said. I couldn't argue with that, but I assured her it's better than good, and it is all-true, and *Man hat schon Pferde kotzen sehen*: stranger things have happened!

Work published and submitted while at Wiko:

- Rowland, H. M. (2018). "Countershading: Encyclopedia of Animal Cognition and Behavior." DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-47829-6_684-1.
- Eacock, A., H. M. Rowland, A. E. van't Hof, C. J. Yung, N. Edmonds, and I. J. Sachheri (2017). "Extraocular photoreception mediates adaptive color change and background choice behavior in peppered moth caterpillars." Manuscript under review.
- Rowland, H. M. and R. P. Burriss (2017). "Human colour in mate choice and competition." *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B* 10.1098/rstb/372/1724.