

The differences in behaviour of animals are not found only between species or populations but also between individuals within a population. If individuals differ in their behaviour constantly in time and across various situations, then we find diverse personality among them. The aim of my diploma thesis was to seek personality in spiny mice (*Acomys cahirinus*).

For verification of stability of behaviour (of the same age) in various situations we tested animals in series of behavioural tests focusing on activity, exploration and anxiety. Every test was repeated twice with each individual in order to verify the stability of their behaviour in time.

It was demonstrated that the behaviour of experimental animals is repeatable across different situations in time (the results of tests were correlated between each other as well as between two series), thus we confirmed the existence personality in the animals. However the personality does not participate on the results of individual tests by a great degree, its occurrence is more evident from the series of more tests. Animals differ from each other primarily in coping with new situations.

Keywords: personality, series of behavioural tests, PCA