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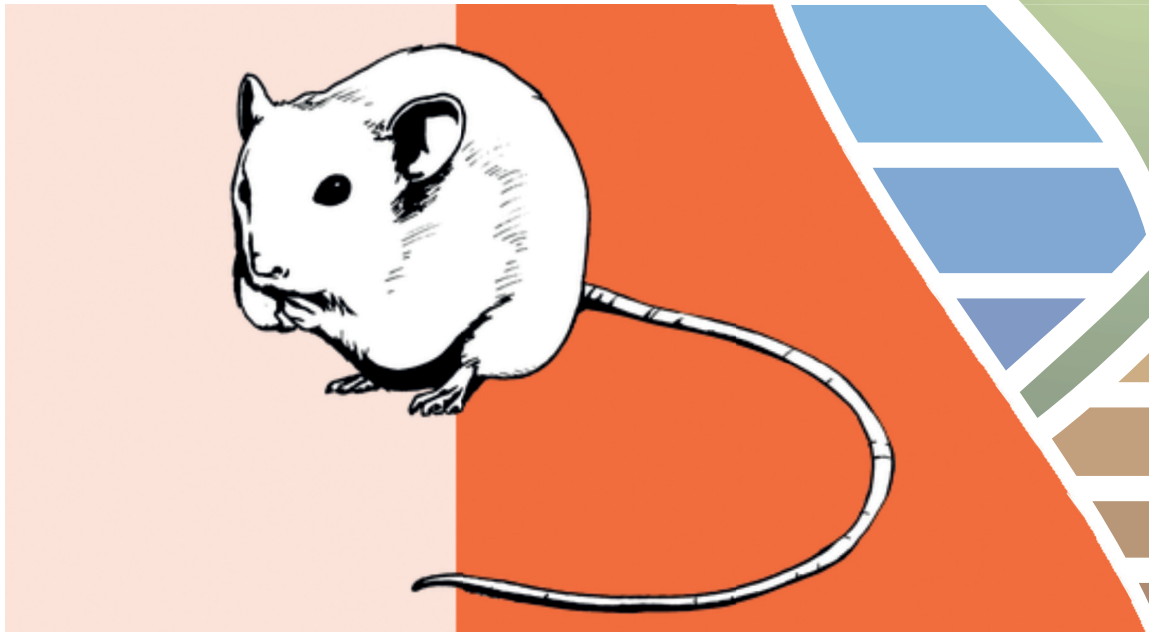
Julius-Kühn-Archiv

Jens Jacob, Jana Eccard (Editors)

6th International Conference of Rodent
Biology and Management
and
16th Rodens et Spatium

Potsdam, Germany, 3-7 September 2018

Book of Abstracts



Julius Kühn-Institut
Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen

Editors:

Jens Jacob¹ and Jana Eccard²

¹Julius Kühn Institute, Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants,
Institute for Plant Protection in Horticulture and Forests, Vertebrate Research,
Toppheideweg 88, 48161 Münster, Germany

²University of Potsdam, Institute of Biochemistry and Biology,
Animal Ecology Group, Maulbeerallee 1,
14469 Potsdam, Germany

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Bibliografische Information der Deutschen Nationalbibliothek

Die Deutsche Nationalbibliothek verzeichnet diese Publikation

In der Deutschen Nationalbibliografie: detaillierte bibliografische

Daten sind im Internet über <http://dnb.d-nb.de> abrufbar.

ISSN 1868-9892

ISBN 978-3-95547-059-3

DOI 10.5073/jka.2018.459.000



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Poster Session 1 – Rodent Behaviour

21 Ultrasonic pulse bouts of a blind fast-climbing rodent (*Typhlomys chapensis*): similarities and differences with echolocation calls of bats

Ilya A. Volodin¹, Aleksandra A. Panyutina², Alexei V. Abramov³, Olga G. Ilchenko⁴, Elena V. Volodina⁴

¹Lomonosov Moscow State University, Moscow, Russia, volodinsvoc@gmail.com

²Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution RAS, Moscow, Russia

³Zoological Institute RAS, Saint Petersburg, Russia

⁴Moscow Zoo, Moscow, Russia

Bouts of ultrasonic pulses produced by blind Vietnamese pygmy dormice (*Typhlomys chapensis*) are reminiscent of ultrasonic calls of echolocating bats, however they display some remarkable differences in the acoustics. Echolocation pulses of the dormouse are organized in bouts. We examined 1,481 bouts that consisted of 1-6 pulses per bout; 51.3% of bouts contain more than one pulse. The number of pulses per bout affected bout duration and inter-bout interval, whereas the period from start of a previous bout to start of the next bout was constant (80.0 ± 2.9 ms) in spite of the number of pulses per bout. Ultrasonic pulses (540 pulses measured in a subset of 234 bouts), represented short (0.68 ± 0.15 ms) convex sweeps with the fundamental frequency slope from 127.3 ± 6.3 kHz to 64.1 ± 4.6 kHz and peak frequency at 93.3 ± 7.4 kHz, emitted with a within-bout pulse period 13.03 ± 3.01 ms. Single pulses and start pulses of multi-pulse bouts were lower in frequency than other pulses of the bouts. In contrast, pulse duration was independent on pulse position within bout. Pulses were reminiscent of echolocation calls of *Murina* and *Myotis* bats, but were higher in frequency, much shorter, fainter, displayed a convex contour of frequency modulation and displayed only the fundamental frequency band without harmonics. At the same time, the organization of the ultrasonic pulses in bouts is not characteristic for bat echolocation. In contrast, hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) uses clicks organized in bouts for echo-ranging in muddy waters. Probably, the Vietnamese pygmy dormice can also use their ultrasonic pulses for echo-ranging during their locomotion and jumps among bush branches. Compared to bats, the speed of the dormice locomotion is not so high. Therefore, they do not need vary strongly the period between the ultrasonic pulses as in the echolocation series of bats. Supported by the RSF grant 14-14-00237.