

Call for Papers for *Behaviour* on

SPECIAL: ANECDOTES IN ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

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“It is just an anecdote”, is an often-heard critique to scientists describing animal behaviour that has not been reported before. What if this anecdote is a qualitative, rich observation, showing a truly unique behaviour or event that can change the way we think about a species? If an ethologist or another animal expert observes unforeseen behaviour that may be of interest, it is a loss for the field if this observation remains unreported and as a result forgotten. This is especially the case for very rare behaviours or unusual circumstances under which certain behaviours occur. In the past, anecdotal accounts have brought behaviours such as hunting, tool use, infanticide and tactical deception (these examples concern primates) to our attention, and have motivated researchers to study these behaviours quantitatively. Nowadays, such narrative accounts of unique behaviours are on a stark decline (Ramsay & Teichroeb, 2019). Therefore, we deem it highly valuable to make them available again to the scientific community, and predict that by doing so, readers might recognize the behaviour that is described and, ideally, reply to these in a commentary. This will help to contextualize the anecdote better, recognize its scope and generality, and stimulate the design of new directions of study based upon these anecdotes. We hereby invite scholars who have anecdotal evidence of unique behaviour in any species, to submit these as a commentary to *Behaviour*, and if possible, accompanied by a video or photograph. The narrative will be reviewed as usual, by experts in the field so that only well-supported, relevant anecdotes will be published.

Words per paper: 2000 words maximum, excl. references; word type Times 11.

Reference

Ramsay, M.S. & Teichroeb, J.A. (2019). Anecdotes in primatology: temporal trends, anthropocentrism, and hierarchies of knowledge. — *Am. Anthropol.*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1111/aman.13295>

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