

Editor's Summary

18 June 2009

They are all individuals

The conventional view of adaptation is that it operates at the level of the individual organism, but recent observations of the evolution of virulence in viruses infecting moths and bacteria in spatially structured populations (where dispersal is limited) have been interpreted as examples of group selection. Wild *et al.* here extend previous models mathematically to show that the effect of dispersal on parasite virulence can be understood as an individual-level adaptation by the parasite entirely within the context of kin selection theory.

LETTER

Adaptation and the evolution of parasite virulence in a connected world

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