



ANIMAL ATHLETES

*An ecological and
evolutionary approach*



DUNCAN IRSCHICK | TIM HIGHAM

Animal Athletes Ecological Evolutionary Approach Ebook

Peipei Pang



Animal Athletes Ecological Evolutionary Approach Ebook:

Animal Athletes Duncan J. Irschick, Timothy E. Higham, 2015-12-10 Animals perform many athletic tasks to an amazing degree of accomplishment not only spectacular feats of running and jumping but also routine actions that ensure survival such as feeding vocalization diving flying and many more The study of performance capacity defined as the ability of an animal to conduct a key task is of great interest to both ecologists and evolutionary biologists At an ecological level how well individuals perform often dictates opportunities for reproduction occupation of preferred territories or capturing prey Therefore variation in performance capacities can be a key determinant of variation in fitness within animal populations At an evolutionary level variation in function often follows closely from variation in form and therefore enables animals to invade novel habitats or to overtake other species This novel book examines how and why animal athletes have evolved It uses examples from across the animal kingdom and integrates them in the broader context of ecology and evolution thereby identifying common themes that transcend taxonomic divisions *Animal Athletes* is an accessible textbook of particular relevance to undergraduates graduate students researchers and professionals in the fields of evolutionary biology ecology vertebrate morphology and functional morphology and will also appeal to the interested layperson

Animal Athletes Duncan J. Irschick, Timothy E. Higham, 2016 Animals perform many athletic tasks to an amazing degree of accomplishment not only spectacular feats of running and jumping but also routine actions that ensure survival such as feeding vocalization diving flying and many more The study of performance capacity defined as the ability of an animal to conduct a key task is of great interest to both ecologists and evolutionary biologists At an ecological level how well individuals perform often dictates opportunities for reproduction occupation of preferred territories or capturing prey Therefore variation in performance capacities can be a key determinant of variation in fitness within animal populations At an evolutionary level variation in function often follows closely from variation in form and therefore enables animals to invade novel habitats or to overtake other species This novel book examines how and why animal athletes have evolved It uses examples from across the animal kingdom and integrates them in the broader context of ecology and evolution thereby identifying common themes that transcend taxonomic divisions *Animal Athletes* is an accessible textbook of particular relevance to undergraduates graduate students researchers and professionals in the fields of evolutionary biology ecology vertebrate morphology and functional morphology

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