

Special Issue

Physiology and Behaviour of African Mole-Rats

Message from the Guest Editor

African mole-rats are fascinating in almost every aspect of their biology. Although the subterranean niche provides protection against predators and environmental extremes, it also imposes rather harsh constraints on the sensory, thermoregulatory and energetic capacities of its inhabitants. Mole-rats are extremely well-adapted to their habitat, displaying many morphological, physiological and behavioural adaptations. Sensory adaptations include a mosaic of progressive and regressive features to compensate for the lightless environment, while low body temperatures and behavioural adjustments counter thermoregulatory and energetic constraints. African mole-rats have very diverse and interesting social and reproductive organisations, the mechanisms of which have not yet been fully elucidated. In recent years, mole-rats, and in particular naked mole-rats, have become popular models for biomedical research, such as hypoxia, pain insensitivity, ageing and cancer resistance. This Special Issue will showcase the unique biology of African mole-rats with a collection of papers addressing their physiology and behaviour.

Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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