

OPINION

## Effect of interactions of personality traits on growth and foraging in turtles

Nolla Vincent\*

*Department of Animal Science and Technology, Nanjing Agricultural University, Nanjing 210095, China*

*\*Corresponding author E-mail: vincentollan@nce.cn*

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Understanding the effects of personality traits on the growth and foraging behaviors of turtles is crucial for enhancing conservation strategies and captive management practices. This article examines how individual differences in personality traits, such as boldness and exploratory behavior, influence growth rates and foraging efficiency in turtle species. By synthesizing recent research findings and theoretical perspectives, we explore the mechanisms through which personality traits affect foraging success and growth, highlighting the implications for both wild populations and captive environments. We also discuss potential applications for improving turtle management and conservation efforts based on personality assessments.

**Keywords:** Personality traits, Growth, Foraging behavior, Turtles, Conservation, Captive management, Boldness, Exploratory behavior.

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### Introduction

The study of personality traits in animals has garnered increasing attention due to its implications for understanding behavior and ecology. In reptiles, particularly turtles, personality traits such as boldness, shyness, and exploratory tendencies can significantly impact individual growth rates and foraging success. These traits affect how turtles interact with their environment, seek out resources, and ultimately, how well they thrive in both natural and controlled settings. Personality traits in turtles, such as boldness, exploration tendencies, and sociability, influence various aspects of their behavior and ecological interactions (Gallardo, B., et al., 2016). Bold turtles are more likely to engage in risky behaviors, such as exploring new habitats or foraging in less familiar areas, which can lead to varying outcomes in terms of growth and survival. Conversely, more cautious turtles might exhibit slower growth rates due to a more conservative approach to foraging and resource acquisition.

### Description

Turtles with high exploratory tendencies often exhibit greater foraging efficiency, as they are more likely to discover and utilize diverse food sources. This increased foraging success can lead to enhanced growth rates, as a varied diet contributes to better overall nutrition. In contrast, less exploratory turtles may have limited foraging success and consequently slower growth rates. The relationship between personality traits and growth rates is influenced by foraging behavior. Bold turtles that frequently explore new foraging areas may experience higher growth rates due to a more comprehensive intake of nutrients. However, this increased foraging activity also comes with potential risks, such as higher predation rates or increased energy expenditure. On the other hand, turtles with more reserved personalities might exhibit slower but steadier growth patterns due to their more consistent and cautious foraging strategies (Collins, S. M., et al., 2023).

Understanding how personality traits affect growth and foraging can inform conservation strategies by highlighting the need to accommodate behavioral diversity within populations. For instance, conservation efforts that consider individual behavioral differences might improve habitat management and resource allocation, enhancing overall population health and resilience. In captivity, acknowledging and accommodating individual personality traits can lead to better management practices. Tailoring feeding regimes and environmental enrichments to the specific needs and behaviors of different turtles can optimize growth rates and overall well-being. For instance, providing diverse foraging opportunities and stimulating environments can benefit more exploratory turtles, while ensuring that more reserved individuals have access to consistent and secure resources (Dudgeon, D., et al., 2006).

The interactions between personality traits and growth or foraging behaviors in turtles reveal complex dynamics that are crucial for both conservation and captive management. By considering individual differences in personality, researchers and managers can develop more effective strategies for supporting turtle populations and improving their chances of survival and well-being. Future research should continue to explore these interactions to refine our understanding and application of personality-based management practices in turtle conservation.

The efficiency with which turtles forage is directly linked to their growth rates. Turtles that are more adept at locating and utilizing a variety of food sources tend to grow faster due to a richer diet. Bold and exploratory turtles often fall into this category, benefiting from their ability to capitalize on diverse resources. Bold turtles may experience increased growth rates due to higher resource intake, but this can be counterbalanced by the energy costs associated with their risk-taking behavior (Wu, J., et al., 2020). In contrast, cautious turtles may exhibit slower but steadier growth patterns due to a more energy-efficient approach to resource utilization. Understanding these trade-offs is essential for assessing the overall fitness and health of different personality types. Conservation strategies can be optimized by incorporating an understanding of individual personality traits. Tailoring habitat management to accommodate different foraging strategies and risk tolerances can enhance the survival and reproductive success of turtle populations. For example, providing varied habitats and resources can support the diverse needs of bold and exploratory turtles while ensuring that cautious turtles have access to secure and reliable resources. In captivity, acknowledging and accommodating individual personality traits can improve the well-being and growth rates of turtles (Nishizawa, H., et al., 2014). Personalized enrichment and feeding programs that cater to the specific behaviors of different turtles can enhance their quality of life and overall health. For instance, bold turtles might benefit from environmental enrichments that stimulate exploration, while cautious turtles may require stable and secure habitats.

## **Conclusion**

Future research should focus on longitudinal studies that track the effects of personality traits over time and across different life stages. Additionally, exploring the genetic and environmental factors that contribute to personality traits can provide deeper insights into their development and impact. Integrating behavioral ecology with conservation and management practices will be crucial for advancing our understanding of turtle personality and its implications for their growth and survival. The interplay between personality traits and growth or foraging behaviors in turtles underscores the importance of considering individual differences in ecological and management contexts. By incorporating personality assessments into conservation strategies and captive care practices, we can enhance the effectiveness of our efforts to support turtle populations and improve their overall well-being.

## **Acknowledgement**

None.

## **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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