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► **To cite this version:**

Ming Kai Tan, Stefan Schöneich, Tony Robillard. Title: Inter-individual differences of calling and exploratory behaviour in a lebinthine cricket species hint at different mate-finding strategies Running title: Repeatability of acoustic display and exploration. Behaviour, In press. hal-03460388

HAL Id: hal-03460388

<https://hal.science/hal-03460388>

Submitted on 1 Dec 2021

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5

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14

15

16 **Summary**

17

18 Individual fitness can be boosted by behavioural strategies that maximise mate-finding
19 probability while minimising predation risk. Animals that use acoustics to find mates
20 may benefit from using both stationary calling and active exploration, but these also
21 expose them to different types of predators. Studying calling and searching behaviours
22 concurrently allows us to understand their evolutionary trade-offs between survival and
23 reproduction. Unlike most other crickets, lebinthine males alternate between singing
24 and exploration to find females, which offer a unique and excellent opportunity to test

for inter-individual differences and behavioural syndrome between call properties and exploratory behaviours. Our data demonstrate that call properties and exploratory behaviour were repeatable. We did not, however, find that call properties correlate with exploration as some consistently exploratory individuals produce longer calls while others produce shorter calls. Our study suggests that lebinthine males use different combinations of calling and exploratory behaviours to cope with unpredictable risk–benefit scenarios.

Key words: acoustic communication, exploratory behaviour, lebinthine crickets, animal personality, behavioural syndrome

36 **Introduction**

37 Behavioural strategies for mate finding, foraging behaviour and predator avoidance
38 have strong impacts on the reproductive success (Hoy, 1991; Hunt et al., 2004;
39 Rodriguez-Munoz et al., 2010). In most animals using acoustic communication in the
40 context of pair formation, males produce calling songs to advertise themselves to
41 conspecific females, but may also actively explore their habitat to increase the chances
42 of finding potential mating partners and other resources like food (Wilson et al., 2010).
43 While calling and exploration can both benefit the fitness of males, these behaviours are
44 also costly with respect to energy and time consumption, and can attract attention of
45 visually and/or acoustically hunting predators (Sakaluk & Belwood, 1984; Torsekar et
46 al., 2019; Geipel et al., 2020).

47
48 An individual's behavioural strategies are expected to be shaped by natural and sexual
49 selection to balance their survival and reproductive needs (Sakaluk, 1990; Zuk &
50 Kolluru, 1998; Hedrick & Kortet, 2006; Dobbs et al., 2020). For instance, a high
51 tendency to explore can be beneficial for individuals under low predator-risk conditions
52 while a low tendency to explore might be more advantageous when predation risk is
53 high (Hedrick, 2000; Römer et al., 2010; Symes et al., 2020). With relatively persistent
54 risk–reward conditions, conspecific behaviours will be adapted to fit particular
55 ecological niches (Honegger, 1981; Fergus & Shaw, 2013). However, consistent inter-
56 individual differences in behavioural expression may also reflect variation of the
57 behavioural phenotype within a population (Rose et al., 2017; Balsam & Stevenson,
58 2020, 2021). This may consequently improve both survivability and reproductive

59 success of different individuals within a population under fluctuating selection pressures
60 over time (Smith & Blumstein, 2008; Wey et al., 2019).
61
62 Consistent inter-individual behavioural differences across time and context has been
63 coined animal ‘personality’ (Sih et al., 2004; Biro & Stamps, 2008; Bell et al., 2009). A
64 prominent and well-studied example of a personality trait is exploration which refers to
65 the likelihood of an individual to spontaneously explore a novel environment
66 (Dingemanse et al., 2007; Biro & Stamps, 2008; Wilson et al., 2010). Different species
67 have been reported to show consistent inter-individual differences in exploration under
68 different ecological conditions, including anti-predation, mate choice, foraging and
69 learning (e.g., Wilson & Godin, 2009; Guillette et al., 2009; Mazué et al., 2015; Wat et
70 al., 2020). Exploration can also be heritable and may have significant consequences for
71 individual’s fitness (Dingemanse et al., 2004, 2007; Sih et al., 2004; Réale et al., 2007;
72 Smith & Blumstein, 2008). A meta-analysis by Smith & Blumstein (2008) indicated
73 that exploration is in general tightly linked with increased survival but not necessarily
74 also to reproductive success. In the context of acoustic mate-finding in crickets,
75 however, behavioural evolution from male calling and female phonotaxis (field cricket
76 strategy: Schöneich, 2020) to male calling and male searching (lebinthine strategy: ter
77 Hofstede et al.2015) will most likely involve a significant shift of the predation risk
78 towards the male side (e.g., Heller 1992). Nonetheless, a male which has higher
79 exploration level may have a more active coping strategy and would be more likely to
80 search around its environment to find females than a male with lower exploratory
81 tendency and rather passive coping strategy (Dingemanse et al., 2004; Garamszegi et
82 al., 2008).

83
84 Multidimensional acoustic signals used for attracting mates can vary within and
85 between individuals, populations and species (Gerhardt & Huber, 2002). The extent of
86 this variation can be broadly categorised into ‘static’ or ‘dynamic’ call properties
87 (Gerhardt, 1991) based on the level of within-male variability and corresponding female
88 preference functions. Static call properties are relatively consistent within and between
89 the males’ calls, and females can use them to differentiate conspecific from
90 heterospecific males (Gerhardt, 1991). In contrast, dynamic properties are generally
91 more variable between males, and to some extent, within each male’s calls. Females
92 may potentially use this information to discriminate the qualities of the singing male
93 regarding body size, fertility, age and health conditions (e.g., Wagner & Hoback, 1999;
94 Scheuber et al., 2003; Bertram et al., 2012; Rodriguez et al., 2014). In the context of pair
95 formation, the acoustic communication signals may be used by the receiver to recognise
96 and locate, as well as to select between, potential mates. These objectives—species
97 recognition and mate choice—can impose different selection pressures on the variably
98 of signal parameters (Gerhardt, 1991; Gerhardt & Huber, 2002), implying that both inter-
99 and intra-individual variation in these properties are crucial for studying evolution of
100 acoustic communication.

101
102 One main finding of the studies on static and dynamic call properties in different
103 species is that individuals exhibit different degrees of repeatability in their call
104 properties (Gerhardt, 1991; Nityananda & Balakrishnan, 2008; Bertram et al., 2012;
105 Deb et al., 2012; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013). To date, studies in anurans and
106 orthopteran insects have demonstrated that static properties tend to exhibit higher

repeatability and usually include carrier frequency and pulse rate (e.g., Gerhardt & Huber, 2002; Gerhardt, 2008; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013). On the other hand, dynamic properties, which may include temporal parameters such as chirp rate and call duration, are usually less repeatable within the males' calls (Gerhardt, 1991; Nityananda & Balakrishnan, 2008; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013). High repeatability in call parameters are often attributed to morphological features responsible for sound production (Montealegre-Z et al., 2009, 2011) while lower repeatability can apply to features depending mostly on the neuronal control of behaviour (Schöneich & Hedwig, 2012, 2017), which can be significantly affected by internal body condition and external environment (e.g., temperature, duration of day light, disturbance by rainfall or background noise).

Since multiple behavioural traits can be correlated, it is likely that behavioural syndrome might exist between calling and other behaviour associated with finding mates (e.g., exploration) (Garamszegi et al., 2008). A behavioural syndrome is defined as the correlation of inter-individual differences of two or more different behaviours (Sih, 2004; Hertel et al., 2020). It provides a more holistic view of behaviour, in which selection affecting one behaviour can influence how other behaviours are expressed across different contexts (Sih et al., 2004; Kortet & Hedrick, 2007; Wilson et al., 2010). To date, only a handful of studies investigated inter-individual differences in mate-finding strategies by examining how variation in acoustic signalling traits correlate with other fitness-influencing behavioural traits complementing acoustic signalling (Nityananda & Balakrishnan, 2008; Naguib et al., 2010).

Crickets have been frequently utilised to examine neurophysiological mechanisms and evolutionary processes related to their behaviours (Huber et al., 1989; Horch et al., 2017; Schöneich, 2020). Nevertheless, studies of repeatability in the call properties of their calling songs and potential correlations with other mate-finding behaviours are still scarce (Wilson et al., 2010; Fitzsimmons & Bertram, 2013; Shaw & Herlihy, 2000). There is also a need for more comparative studies to diversify the study subjects to avoid making general statements based only on very few and phylogenetically constrained model species. The majority of studies on cricket personality (but see Tan et al., 2018; Tan & Tan 2019), particularly in the context of acoustic mate finding, and on the static and dynamic traits in cricket calls are focused on only a handful of field cricket species (e.g., Bailey and Zuk, 2008; Zuk et al., 2008; Bertram et al., 2012; Stahlschmidt et al., 2014; Santostefano et al., 2016). Field crickets (Gryllinae) are often used as model species (Horch et al., 2017), but male's call at low frequencies while remaining at the same location on the ground and while relying on female phonotaxis (Simmons, 1988; Bennet-Clark, 1989; Schöneich and Hedwig 2010). On the other hand, the Lebinthini crickets—a speciose tribe of the subfamily Eneopterinae possess diverse high-frequency calls (Robillard et al., 2007; Tan et al., 2021)—live on bushes in a three-dimensional habitat. More importantly, lebinthine males actively search for female's vibratory responses to their high-frequency calls by alternating between calling and walking around (ter Hofstede et al., 2015), a behaviour that is generally not observed in field crickets. The crickets of the tribe of Lebinthini crickets provides a unique and excellent opportunity to study evolutionary trade-offs between calling and searching behaviour in the context of mate finding.

We used a lebinthine cricket species (*Lebinthus bitaeniatus* Stål, 1877) to investigate if males exhibit consistent inter-individual differences in call properties and exploratory behaviour, and whether they correlate. We hypothesise that a highly exploratory individual should also be more eager to acoustically advertise itself to females or against other males, thus having the tendency to produce songs with longer call duration and/or shorter syllable period (Garamszegi et al., 2008; Wilson et al., 2010). Although this strategy might increase male mating opportunities it could also be more costly as it increases male conspicuousness to acoustically orienting predators (Garamszegi et al., 2008). Alternatively, individuals that produce songs with longer call duration and/or shorter syllable period could be less exploratory, suggesting a trade-off between the two activities.

Materials and methods

Study animals

A species of Southeast Asian lebinthine crickets was used for the experiments: *L. bitaeniatus* from the Philippines (Figure 1a). *L. bitaeniatus* can be found living in secondary forests, usually among plant foliage or on top of leaf litter (Robillard & Tan, 2013). It is a medium-sized (male hind femur length = 11.6 mm) species and the males' call has a broadband frequency spectrum at high frequency (12–30 kHz). Calls are emitted mostly from early morning to dusk, and the echeme consists of two parts (Figure 1b): initial well-spaced syllables (hereafter referred to as clicks) followed by a short trill (Robillard & Tan, 2013). Breeding colonies in the lab were established with cricket eggs collected during fieldwork from 2014 in Luzon, Philippines. The cricket

colonies were housed and maintained at a temperature-controlled insect rearing room of the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris (MNHN). The animals were kept at 25–27°C in large tanks with soil as substrate and living foliage to simulate natural environment and maintain high humidity. The colonies were subjected to 13:11 hours light:dark cycle. The crickets were fed with European ivy (*Hedera helix* Linnaeus) and Affinity ULTIMA Mini Adult dog pellets food and BJORG Muesli whole grain cereals without added sugar *ad libitum*. Adult males and females, as well as juveniles, were kept together as they would usually be in their natural environment. Moist cotton balls were provided for females to lay eggs.

Individual males were isolated from the colonies about 24 hours before the start of the experiments, each placed in a separate container (6.5 cm in diameter and 8.5 cm high). Each container was cleaned daily and food and water (wet cotton ball) replaced at least every second day. We used individuals from the same colony to control for population differences, and only healthy and intact individuals were selected for the experiments. Fresh body weight was measured using a precise weighing balance with 0.1 mg accuracy (Mettler Toledo GmbH [MS304TS/00], Switzerland). We were careful not to harm the crickets during the collection, housing and experiments. After the experiments, the crickets were euthanised in a freezer and pinned for voucher in the MNHN. Pronotum length of the dried specimen was measured. Body condition was calculated by using Peige and Green's (2009) scaled mass index (SMI), which accounts for the covariation between body mass and body size when calculating a standardised condition score. We used pronotum length as a proxy for body size in our calculations of SMI.

203 *Sound recording and analysis of call properties*

204 To test for consistent inter-individual differences in the calling properties, we placed an
205 isolated male in a cage with nylon netting (considered as a novel environment) in a
206 temperature-controlled sound attenuating room in MNHN and recorded the acoustic
207 activity for 24 hours. Recording commenced after the cricket was placed inside the
208 cage. These standardised conditions are aimed at minimising the influence of noise from
209 the environment and other males on the singing activity. As temperature can influence
210 the call properties, we used a HOBO 8K Pendant® Temperature logger (model: UA-
211 001-08, Onset, Bourne, MA) to track the room ambient temperature once every hour.
212 Temperature was kept at around 25–27°C; high humidity was maintained with a cotton
213 ball soaked in water; light:dark hours followed that in the insect rearing room.

214

215 Singing activity was recorded using a Condenser Capsule microphone CM16 (Avisoft
216 Bioacoustics, Berlin, with a flat frequency response from 3 to 150 kHz), which was
217 placed next to the nylon cage. Automatic recordings were made at a sampling rate of 96
218 kilo-samples per second (16 bit) using a suitable sound card (8-Pre MOTU) and Avisoft
219 software (Triggering Harddisk Recorder version 2.97). All sound 5 s prior to the trigger
220 was recorded and saved, and the recording continued for 30 s after the last sound had
221 been detected. In total, we recorded the calls of 18 male *L. bitaeniatus*.

222

223 From the recordings, we considered each song as a unit of replication and analysed the
224 following parameters to examine repeatability in the call properties: call duration,
225 number of clicks, trill duration and syllable period of the trill part and dominant
226 frequency. This was done using Raven Lite 2.0 for visualisation of sound files, and then

“autodetec” function in R package WarbleR version 1.1.14 (Araya-Salas & Wright, 2017) to identify the starts and ends of sound signals and the number of syllables for each song. For individuals that sang continuously, we randomly selected and analysed a subset of eight sound files between 0800–1400 hours during which the cricket was most active (Tan & Robillard, 2021a) and that the video recording was done (see below), but ensured that there were at least five analysed calls per individual. This also ensured that the data used for downstream analyses was not unbalanced among the different individuals. To extract the dominant frequency, we used the “specan” function in R package WarbleR version 1.1.14 (Araya-Salas & Wright, 2017).

Video recording and analysis of the exploratory behaviour

To assess repeatability of exploratory behaviour in a new environment, a behavioural assay was conducted in a temperature-controlled room ($30 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$), isolated from other crickets. This was done usually between 08:00 to 14:00 daytime hours. The testing arena (Figure 1c) was an empty 34 cm length, 23 cm wide, 10 cm tall plastic container (RAD1068) and was covered with a glass plate on top. The bottom surface of the arena was covered with filter paper, which was replaced after each trial to minimise effect of chemical traces introduced by crickets during previous trials. About 30 min prior to the start of assay, the individual was placed in a tumbler (7.7 cm in diameter and 7.5 cm tall) covered with a piece of cardboard to allow for habituation. This glass jar with the cricket inside was then randomly placed in one of the eight segments of the arena (i.e., zones) to avoid systematic spatial biases. The trial commenced upon removal of the cardboard covering the jar. The exploratory behaviour of the cricket in the test arena was video recorded for 40 min using a Sony HD AVCHD Progressive HandyCam

251 HDR-CX240, 9.2 mega pixels. After the trial, the cricket was returned to its individual
252 container. The glass jar was also cleaned using Diversity FandB Divosan ETHA-plus
253 after each trial to remove chemical traces of the previous crickets. For each individual,
254 the trial was repeated five times, once every day (about 24 hours gap between trials). In
255 total, we video-recorded repeated assays for 19 male *L. bitaeniatus*.

256

257 From the video files, we used the animal-tracking software EthoVision XT version 15.0
258 (Noldus Information Technology, the Netherlands) to determine the following
259 measures: 1) number of zones within the testing arena explored by the cricket and 2)
260 total distance covered by the cricket. The pixels representing the cricket was detected
261 using grey scaling and the position of the centre of mass of each cricket was tracked.

262

263 *Testing repeatability of call properties and behavioural traits*

264 Repeatability is defined as the intraclass correlation coefficient (ICC), which is
265 calculated as the ratio of inter- group variance and the sum of inter- and within-group
266 variance (Nakagawa & Schielzeth, 2010), where ‘group’ refers to individual crickets
267 when determining repeatability. To assess repeatability, we followed the mixed effect
268 modelling approach by Nakagawa & Schielzeth (2010) and Dingemanse &
269 Dochtermann (2013). In all models, the individual cricket identity was fitted as a
270 random effect, so as to allow partitioning of phenotypic variation into between- and
271 within-individual components, for even non-Gaussian data, as compared to traditional
272 ANOVA-based methods. To assess repeatability of the call properties, we fitted four
273 univariate linear mixed-effects models (LMMs), one for call duration, dominant
274 frequency, trill duration and syllable period each using the “lmer” function from the R

package “lme4” (Bates et al., 2014). We also fitted an univariate generalised linear mixed-effect model (GLMM) with negative binomial error distribution for the number of clicks using the “glmer.nb” function from “lme4” (Bates et al., 2014). For continuous variables (e.g., call duration), gaussian error distribution was used for modelling, hence the use of LMMs. We also log-transformed call duration and syllable period to improve model performance. For count data (i.e., number of clicks), negative binomial error distribution was preferred over poisson because overdispersion was detected via the ‘dispersion_glmer’ function from ‘blmeco’ (Korner-Nievergelt et al., 2015). Included as fixed effects were: 1) ambient temperature at the time of calling to control for temperature effect on the call properties (Walker, 1962), 2) scaled body index of cricket to control for body condition of cricket and 3) the time (i.e., hour of the day) during which the song was recorded. All fixed effects were centred on their means to facilitate model fitting (Schielzeth, 2010). Dispersion, outliers, heterogeneity of residuals and variable collinearity were checked to ensure that the assumptions of the models were not violated (Zuur et al., 2010, 2016). The marginal and conditional R^2 (i.e., R^2_m and R^2_c respectively) were also reported for each model.

To assess repeatability of exploratory behaviour in each individual, we fitted an univariate GLMM with negative binomial error distribution (to account for overdispersion) for the total number of zones within the testing arena that were explored, as well as an univariate LMM for total distance covered using the same functions of the same R package described previously. To control for potential spatio-temporal biases in parameter estimates caused by the experimental setup, arena location in a test platform (1–3; three levels, categorical) was considered as a fixed effect. To

control for potential habituation to the novel environment of the testing arena, trial number was also considered as a fixed effect. Moreover, scaled body index of cricket to control for body condition of cricket (found to be correlated to the total number of singing bouts over 24 hours) was also included as fixed effects.

To calculate repeatability estimate, we used the functions “rpt” and “rptPoisson” functions from the R package “rptR” (Stoffel et al., 2017) for call duration, trill duration and syllable period, as well as, total distance covered; and for number of clicks and number of zones explored, respectively. We reported the standard errors of the repeatability estimates and performed 500 parametric bootstraps to obtain the 95% confidence intervals (CIs) for the random effect. Repeatability was calculated after controlling for variation due to covariates. For the number of clicks and number of zones explored, we accounted for overdispersion and the repeatability approximated using an original scale was used. Since the R package “rptR” uses algorithms that do not converge if repeatability is zero or negative, we concluded that repeatability is zero only if CIs and p- values were shown as NA (Schuster et al., 2017). The “rpt” R- package applies parametric bootstrapping for CI estimation, but randomisation for inference testing (p-values) which may lead to non- congruent conclusions. Nonetheless, effect sizes in combination with the CIs were also considered during interpretation. Repeatability estimates larger than 0.1 were considered as weak evidence, even if the estimated CI included zero; and repeatability estimates smaller than 0.1 as not repeatable, even if the p-value suggested significance (Schuster et al., 2017).

323 *Correlations between call properties and exploratory behaviour*

324 To investigate whether the call properties and exploratory behaviour correlate,
325 multivariate mixed effects models are preferred to extracting individual point estimates
326 from random effects (also known as best linear unbiased predictor, BLUP). This is
327 because BLUP overlooks the errors inherited in the estimates, and using BLUP
328 extracted from univariate models tends to lead to false positive results and hence
329 (erroneous) conclusion (Houslay & Wilson, 2017). We fitted multivariate mixed effects
330 models with call properties and exploratory behaviours as response variables using the
331 ‘MCMCglmm’ package (Hadfield, 2010). To avoid overfitting the model with
332 correlated call properties, we first used a principal component analysis (PCA) to
333 summarise the variations of the multivariate call properties and visualise collinearity
334 among the call properties. Only males with data sets for both exploratory behaviour and
335 call properties were used for the correlation analysis. If two or more call properties were
336 correlated, we used only one of them for the multivariate mixed effects models.
337 Response variables were scaled to facilitate model fitting. As we had much greater
338 number of repeats for song data than for exploration data, we randomly selected five
339 songs from each individual to be fitted as a response in the models (since each
340 individual had five repeats of emergence time and/or total exploring duration). We
341 added as fixed effects the parameters, which are considered important in explaining
342 each trait based on the results from the repeatability estimation. We used the
343 MCMCglmm default prior for the fixed effects and an inverse-gamma prior for the
344 residuals ($V = 1$, $\nu = 0.002$); an uninformative, parameter-expanded prior for the
345 random effect ($V = 1$, $\nu = 3$, $\alpha\mu = 0$, $\alpha V = 625$). We ran the model for 750,000 MCMC
346 iterations with a burn-in of 50,000 and a thinning-interval of 175. Estimated model

coefficients and credible intervals were based on 4,000 effective samples. A Bayesian 95% credible interval that crosses zero indicates that there is no evidence of a statistically significant correlation, and one with the lower bound close to zero indicates weak evidence. To assess the strength and direction of correlation, we followed the approach by Houslay & Wilson (2017): we calculated the mean for the correlation between the variances of the singing and exploring behaviour. This was done by dividing the covariance between an exploratory trait with a singing property by the product of the square roots of their variances.

Results

Repeatability of call properties

Of the 19 *Lebinthus bitaeniatus* males used for the experiments, one died (ID # 19) before the sound recording was completed, and was therefore excluded from the analyses. Another male (ID # 9) did not call, despite the exploratory assay was completed, and was also therefore also excluded from the analyses. The remaining data (17 animals; $n = 675$ calls) showed that *L. bitaeniatus* males showed consistent inter-individual differences in the following call parameters: call duration (ICC = 0.26 ± 0.09 , p -value < 0.001 , 95 % CI [0.09, 0.43], $R^2_m = 0.00$, $R^2_c = 0.26$), number of clicks per call (ICC = 0.24 ± 0.08 , p -value < 0.001 , 95 % CI [0.05, 0.37], $R^2_m = 0.00$, $R^2_c = 0.20$), trill duration (ICC = 0.32 ± 0.10 , p -value < 0.001 , 95 % CI [0.14, 0.51], $R^2_m = 0.03$, $R^2_c = 0.34$) and syllable period (ICC = 0.32 ± 0.10 , p -value < 0.001 , 95 % CI [0.12, 0.50], $R^2_m = 0.11$, $R^2_c = 0.39$) (Figure 2). None of the fixed effects predicted call duration or number of clicks (Table 1). Syllable period correlated negatively only with ambient temperature (estimate = -0.008 ± 0.004 , 95% CI [-0.015 , -0.001]) (Table 1). *L.*

bitaeniatus also showed consistent inter-individual differences in dominant frequency (ICC = 0.90 ± 0.04 , p-value < 0.001, 95 % CI [0.78, 0.94], $R^2_m = 0.06$, $R^2_c = 0.90$) (Figure 2). Dominant frequency correlated negatively with the time of the recording (estimate = -0.002 ± 0.001 , 95% CI [-0.003 , -0.001]) and increased with higher temperature (estimate = 0.004 ± 0.002 , 95% CI [0.001, 0.007]) (Table 1).

Repeatability of the exploratory behaviours

Of the 19 *L. bitaeniatus* males used for the experiments, one (ID # 19) died before exploratory assays were completed, and was therefore excluded from the analyses. *L. bitaeniatus* (n = 90 videos, 18 males) showed weak consistent inter-individual differences in the number of zones explored within the testing arena (ICC = 0.15 ± 0.11 , p-value < 0.001, 95 % CI [0.03, 0.41], $R^2_m = 0.01$, $R^2_c = 0.57$) (Figure 3), but showed stronger consistent inter-individual differences in the total distance covered in the arena (ICC = 0.25 ± 0.12 , p-value = 0.005, 95 % CI [0.02, 0.48], $R^2_m = 0.10$, $R^2_c = 0.33$) (Figure 3). The *L. bitaeniatus* males did not show evidence of habituation to the novel environment in both number of zones explored (estimate = -0.01 ± 0.18 , 95% CI [-0.36 , 0.34]) and total distance covered (estimate = 30.0 ± 26.5 , 95% CI [-21.8 , 81.6]) (Table 2). Individuals with better body conditions tend to cover a greater distance (estimate = 91.3 ± 43.6 , 95% CI [7.3, 175.7]) but did not explore more or less zones (estimate = 0.22 ± 0.43 , 95% CI [-0.74 , 1.16]) than individuals with poorer body conditions (Table 2).

Correlations between call properties and exploratory behaviours

The first two components of the principal component analysis explained 63.9% of variance (PC1 41.0% and PC2 22.9% of variances, respectively). PC1 summarises the number of clicks and call duration whereas PC2 summarises dominant frequency and syllable period, which are in both cases positively correlated with one another) (Figure 6). Then, we fitted a multivariate mixed effects model using call duration, syllable period and total distance covered as the response variables. We added fixed effects that were previously important in predicting the respective response variables: Body condition of the cricket was added as a fixed effect for total distance covered; and ambient temperature was added as a fixed effect for syllable period. There was no evidence of correlation between exploratory behaviours and call properties: individuals that consistently produced longer call duration and syllable period did not consistently cover either a longer or shorter distance in the arena during the tests of exploratory behaviour (Table 3).

Discussion

Repeatability in call properties

Our results demonstrate that male *L. bitaeniatus* crickets exhibit inter-individual differences and repeatability in their calls. Specifically, we were able to quantify consistent inter-individual differences in all measured call properties: call duration, dominant frequency, number of clicks, trill duration and syllable period of the trill part. These suggest that some individuals consistently produce longer calls (longer call and longer trill durations) or with shorter syllable periods than others. These differences

417 may allow females to detect these males more readily, but having longer calls can also
418 increase exposure to eavesdropping predators or rival males.

419

420 In the lebinthine species studied here, call duration, trill duration and syllable period
421 tend to be less repeatable than dominant frequency. Our findings are therefore similar to
422 previous studies in other crickets, which also demonstrated that the properties with
423 lower repeatability estimates are usually found as dynamic rather than static call
424 properties (e.g., dominant frequency) (Nityananda & Balakrishnan, 2008; Deb et al.,
425 2012; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013).

426

427 A separate study using similar methodology demonstrated that the same call properties
428 as examined in this study are also repeatable in the sister species, *Lebinthus luae*
429 Robillard & Tan, 2013 (Tan & Robillard, 2021b). However, the call properties of *L.*
430 *luae* were more repeatable than that of *L. bitaeniatus* in this study. We postulate that the
431 differences may be attributed to the fact that while the *L. bitaeniatus* males used in this
432 experiment come from lab colonies that are more acclimatised to human disturbance, *L.*
433 *luae* used in Tan & Robillard (2021b) were obtained from wild populations. The
434 different wild populations of *L. luae* faced different levels of predation risks and
435 dangers (Fung et al., 2018) leading to population differences in the call properties (Tan
436 & Robillard, 2021b), compared to our *L. bitaeniatus* population that was nursed and
437 bred for several generations under the unique and safe conditions as a lab colony.
438 Besides species-specific differences, this may also explain why consistent inter-
439 individual differences in the call properties were more prominent among the wild-
440 caught individuals of *L. luae*.

441

442 We found that the call properties that exhibit most consistent inter-individual
443 differences in the two *Lebinthus* species are also temporal parameters in other gryllid
444 crickets of the genera *Acheta*, *Gryllus* and *Plebeiogryllus*, as shown in previous studies
445 (see Bertram et al., 2012; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013). These call properties include
446 chirp length (analogous to call duration in *Lebinthus*) and syllables per chirp
447 (approximating the number of click per call). Other orthopterans, however, such as the
448 *Mecopoda* bush-crickets and *Oecanthus* tree crickets did not necessarily exhibit clear
449 repeatability in their call properties (Nityananda & Balakrishnan, 2008; Deb et al.,
450 2012). This suggests that whether a call property is repeatable may differ among species
451 and taxonomic groups, probably as a consequence of differences in terms of selection
452 pressures, phylogenetic relatedness or different acoustic mate finding strategies. This
453 illustrates the importance of broadening the study systems across more species.

454

455 Studying individuality in the calling behaviours of lebinthines is still in its infancy.
456 Further studies could record the calls of each male over repeated trials, rather than one
457 24-hour recording, to examine individuality in the call properties over longer time
458 periods (see: Bertram et al., 2012; Nandi & Balakrishnan, 2013). Calls recorded within
459 one day can produce inflated repeatability estimates compared to those when recorded
460 over a few days, because the former can be confounded by inflated between-individual
461 differences attributed condition (e.g., health, mating status, motivation, energy level,
462 food and water consumed). Consequently, even if we have considered scaled body
463 index in our models, estimating the repeatability across numerous trials might better
464 reflect personality than statistically controlling for internal state in the models.

465

466 *Repeatability of the exploratory behaviours*

467 Unlike most gryllines, male lebinthines are not just passive callers, but instead they
468 actively search for females' vibrational responses between their calling bouts and
469 walking around on plant branches (ter Hofstede et al., 2015). As such, merely
470 examining the call properties in lebinthines may not be sufficient to understand how
471 males find females. The repeatability in the exploratory behaviour of the males also
472 needs to be examined to better understand how the lebinthines' communication system
473 influences behavioural strategies to optimise the mate-finding success.

474

475 In line with our hypothesis that male lebinthines exhibit different 'personality' types
476 regarding their exploratory behaviours, we identified consistent inter-individual
477 difference in the two investigated exploratory traits of *L. bitaeniatus*. Some males
478 consistently covered a greater distance and visited more zones within the testing arena
479 than others, which suggests that individuals of this species exhibit different
480 'personalities' in terms of exploration behaviour. Our data thus add more evidence for
481 widespread occurrence of inter-individual behavioural differences (animal 'personality')
482 in orthopteroid insects. Specifically, Eneopterinae represents another orthopteran
483 lineage to exhibit behavioural personality types previously reported for Gryllinae by
484 Stahlschmidt et al. (2014), DiRienzo et al. (2016), Santostefano et al. (2016) and others,
485 as well as for Tettigoniidae by Tan et al. (2018) and Tan & Tan (2019).

486

487 The inter-individual differences in exploratory behaviours of male *L. bitaeniatus*
488 suggests that both strategies, high and low tendency to actively explore may benefit

489 males under different unforeseeable situations. Since male lebinthines explore among
490 vegetation and actively search for potential mates (ter Hofstede et al., 2015), males with
491 a higher tendency to explore will improve their chances to find and be heard by females,
492 which can be advantageous under low predator-risk conditions. Under high predation
493 pressure, being less exploratory can be more advantageous as it reduces the risks of
494 predation (Hedrick, 2000; Römer et al., 2010; Symes et al., 2020). Depending on the
495 circumstances, benefits of avoiding predation may outweigh the reduced chance of
496 finding mates among these less exploratory males. Furthermore, more stationary males
497 may have the additional advantage to better perceive the female's vibratory response
498 transmitted via the plant substrate, hence being more likely to advance from responses
499 of females if they sit on a remote branch or even different plant nearby.

500

501 *Correlations between call properties and exploratory behaviours*

502 Both call properties and exploratory behaviours are subjected to pressures applied by
503 natural and sexual selection, which can consequently shape behavioural strategies that
504 balance survival and reproductive needs. The fact that call properties as well as
505 exploratory behaviour of the individuals are repeatable—although the former was
506 repeatable within a day and the latter between days—allowed us to tentatively explore
507 whether call properties and exploratory behaviour may correlate. However, contrary to
508 our predictions, we did not detect any correlation between call properties and
509 exploratory behaviour, which suggests that the inter-individual differences of call
510 properties and exploratory behaviour might be independent. This result contrasts with
511 studies on other cricket species and birds where such correlations were found (e.g.,

512 Garamszegi et al., 2008; Naguib et al., 2010, 2016; Wilson et al., 2010; Guillette &
 513 Sturdy, 2011).
 514
 515 Our different results might reflect the unique communication system in lebinthine
 516 crickets. Instead of remaining stationary, as typical gryllines do, male lebinthines
 517 usually alternate between calling and walking (ter Hofstede et al., 2015). It is thus likely
 518 that the chance of finding mates under unpredictable predation risk can involve multiple
 519 strategies, and that more than a single suite of traits might be successful in different
 520 circumstances. As such, we speculate that individual males might therefore employ
 521 different strategies: although males can either stay stationary (less exploratory) until
 522 receiving positive feedback from a nearby female or move around (more exploratory) to
 523 actively find females, males at both ends of the exploration continuum could produce
 524 more or fewer acoustic signals (i.e., longer or shorter syllable period and/or call
 525 duration), blurring any attempt to detect a simple correlation between the two trait
 526 categories. Our interpretation that different lebinthine males might employ different
 527 strategies should be taken with some caution owing to our small sample size. Although
 528 a larger number of crickets would permit the use of multivariate mixed effects
 529 modelling (see: Dingemanse & Dochtermann, 2013), it is difficult to obtain large
 530 numbers of individuals from the same colony and generation under laboratory
 531 conditions.
 532
 533 Using different calling and exploration strategies can be crucial for increasing the
 534 survival of individuals in a population experiencing unpredictable conditions (e.g.,
 535 sparsity or abundance of potential mates, parasites and predators). For example,

acoustically-orientated parasitoids of crickets (e.g., *Ormia* species) are generally effective in attacking a wide variety of calling songs in *Gryllus* (e.g., Sakaguchi & Gray, 2011; Gray et al., 2019) and could possibly also attack lebinthine males with different call properties (e.g., longer call duration or syllable period or fewer number of clicks). Having individuals that use different strategies can therefore help to spread the risk of predation and parasitism (Pascoal et al., 2014; Rayner et al., 2019). One possibility is that, when the parasitoid abundance is high, individuals which are either highly exploratory but produce shorter calls or *vice versa*, may be favoured because they are less likely to encounter, and be detected by, predators and parasitoids with different hunting strategies. Under a different selection pressure where parasitoid abundance is low, males which are both more exploratory and produce longer calls may be favoured instead, because they can find mates more readily. Nevertheless, no acoustically -orientated parasitoid is known to attack lebinthines thus far, and detailed studies on the predator–lebinthine cricket dynamics are hitherto lacking. As we may expect that their dynamics can be different from field crickets owing their different modes of mate-finding in a different habitat (ter Hofstede et al. 2015), investigating personality traits and call properties in the context of parasitoid–lebinthine crickets dynamics could further validate our hypothesis.

Conclusions

New evidences from a lebinthine cricket species for consistent inter-individual differences in call properties and exploratory behaviour demonstrates that animal ‘personality’ is more widespread than currently known and highlights its importance for

the individual's fitness. The lack of a clear correlation between call properties and explorative behaviour in our study suggests that lebinthine crickets may cope with unpredictable risk–benefit scenarios by different individual males using different combinatoric strategies. Although our study is limited by sample size and recording periods, it is the first to investigate how inter-individual differences in exploratory and calling behaviours in this behaviourally-unique lebinthine cricket.

Acknowledgments

The work of MKT was supported by the Fyssen Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship on “From Individuality to Species: Personality and Evolution of Acoustics Communication in Eneopterinae Crickets”. The field work by TR in Luzon, Philippines (2014) was organised by TR (MNHN) and Sheryl Yap (University of Philippines Los Baños Museum of Natural History), funded by grants from the MNHN's Action Transversale du Muséum. In the final stages of the project Stefan Schöneich was supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG Grant: SCHO 1822/3-1). The authors are thankful to Marion Guillaume who helped with the husbandry of the crickets and Julia Balsam for her help and advice with the visualisation of exploration paths.

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586

587

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827

828 **Table 1.** Model summaries on the inter- and intra-individual variations in different
 829 measures of call properties for *L. bitaeniatus*. R^2_m = marginal R^2 , R^2_c = conditional R^2 . *
 830 denotes a strong effect.

Responses	Covariates	Parameters	SE	<i>t/Z</i> - values
Call duration	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
($R^2_m = 0.00$, $R^2_c = 0.26$)				
	Intercept	0.716	0.038	18.99*
	Time (hour of the day)	0.004	0.016	0.27
	Ambient temperature	-0.020	0.033	-0.58
	Scaled body index	0.006	0.046	0.14
Number of clicks	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
$R^2_m = 0.00$, $R^2_c = 0.20$				
	Intercept	2.59	0.10	25.6
	Time (hour of the day)	0.051	0.051	0.98
	Ambient temperature	-0.031	0.108	-0.29
	Scaled body index	0.006	0.130	0.05
Trill duration	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
($R^2_m = 0.03$, $R^2_c = 0.34$)				
	Intercept	1.54	0.04	41.2*
	Time (hour of the day)	0.006	0.014	0.40

Responses	Covariates	Parameters	SE	<i>t/Z -</i>
				values
	Ambient temperature	-0.028	0.030	-0.94
	Scaled body index	0.056	0.044	1.27
Syllable period	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
(R ² _m = 0.11, R ² _c = 0.39)				
	Intercept	1.54	0.004	341.4*
	Time (hour of the day)	-0.003	0.002	-1.81
	Ambient temperature	-0.008	0.004	-2.07*
	Scaled body index	-0.003	0.005	-0.54
Dominant frequency	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
(R ² _m = 0.06, R ² _c = 0.90)				
	Intercept	1.27	0.01	186.0*
	Time (hour of the day)	-0.002	0.000	-2.71*
	Ambient temperature	0.004	0.002	2.49*
	Scaled body index	0.004	0.007	0.56

831

832 **Table 2.** Model summaries on the inter- and intra-individual variations in different

833 measures of explorative behaviours for *L. bitaeniatus*. R²_m = marginal R², R²_c =

834 conditional R². * denotes a strong effect.

Responses	Covariates	Parameters	SE	<i>t/Z -</i>
				values

Responses	Covariates	Parameters	SE	<i>t/Z -</i>
				values
Number of zones explored ($R^2_m = 0.01$, $R^2_c = 0.57$)	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
	Intercept	0.38	0.53	0.72
	Position of arena within platform	-0.25	0.49	-0.51
	Scaled body index	0.22	0.43	0.51
	Trial number	-0.01	0.18	-0.06
Total distance covered ($R^2_m = 0.10$, $R^2_c = 0.33$)	<i>Fixed effect</i>	<i>Estimate</i>		
	Intercept	221.7	61.0	3.64*
	Position of arena within platform	-72.2	72.2	-1.00
	Scaled body index	91.3	43.6	2.10*
	Trial number	30.0	26.5	1.13

835

836 **Table 3.** Summary of the mean and credible intervals (in brackets) of the correlations
837 between the explorative behaviours and call properties in *L. bitaeniatus* (N = 17 males)
838 based on a multivariate mixed effects model of these traits.

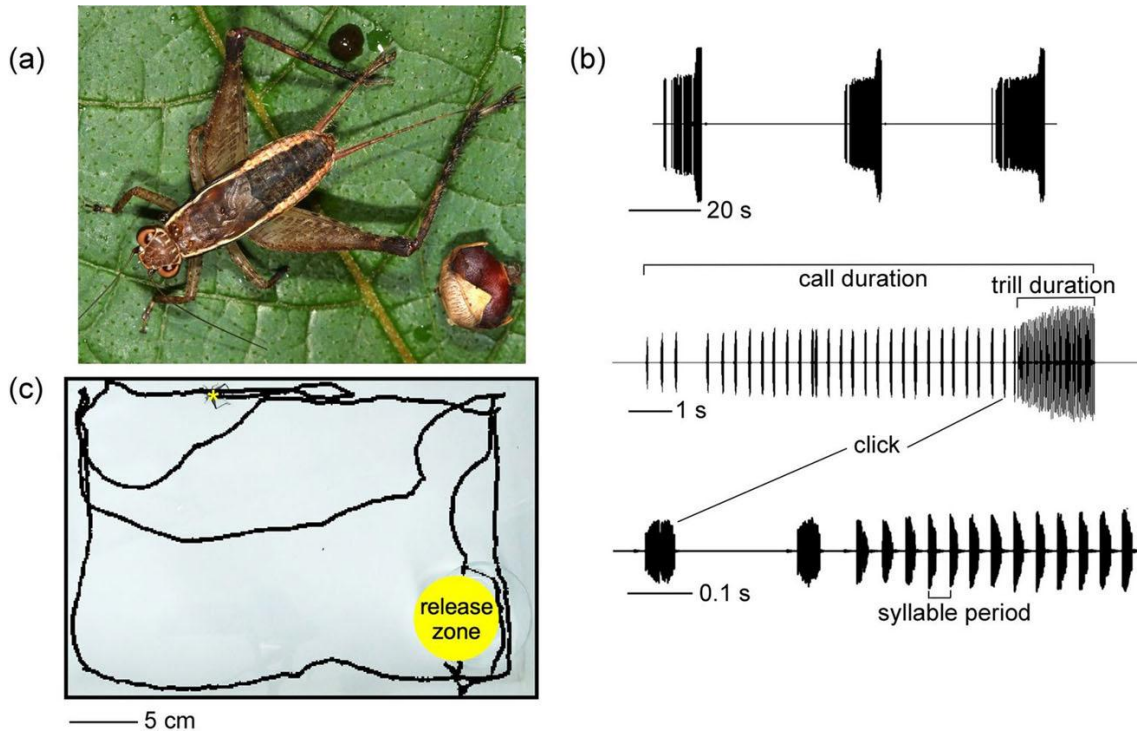
	Total distance covered	Call duration	Syllable period
Total distance covered	—	−0.18 (−0.49, 0.82)	−0.39 (−0.89, 0.19)
Call duration		—	−0.26 (−0.85, 0.35)
Syllable period			—

839

840

841 **Figure legends**

842



843 **Figure 1.** *Lebinthus bitaeniatus*. (a) Photograph of an adult male. (b) Microphone

844 recording of the calling song (top: three echemes, middle: one echeme, bottom: a

845 section of an echeme). (c) Top-view of the test arena for video-recordings of exploration

846 behaviour is shown with an example trace of the movement track for one individual

847 over 40 min each (yellow circle: release zone; yellow star: cricket position at the end of

848 the test).

849

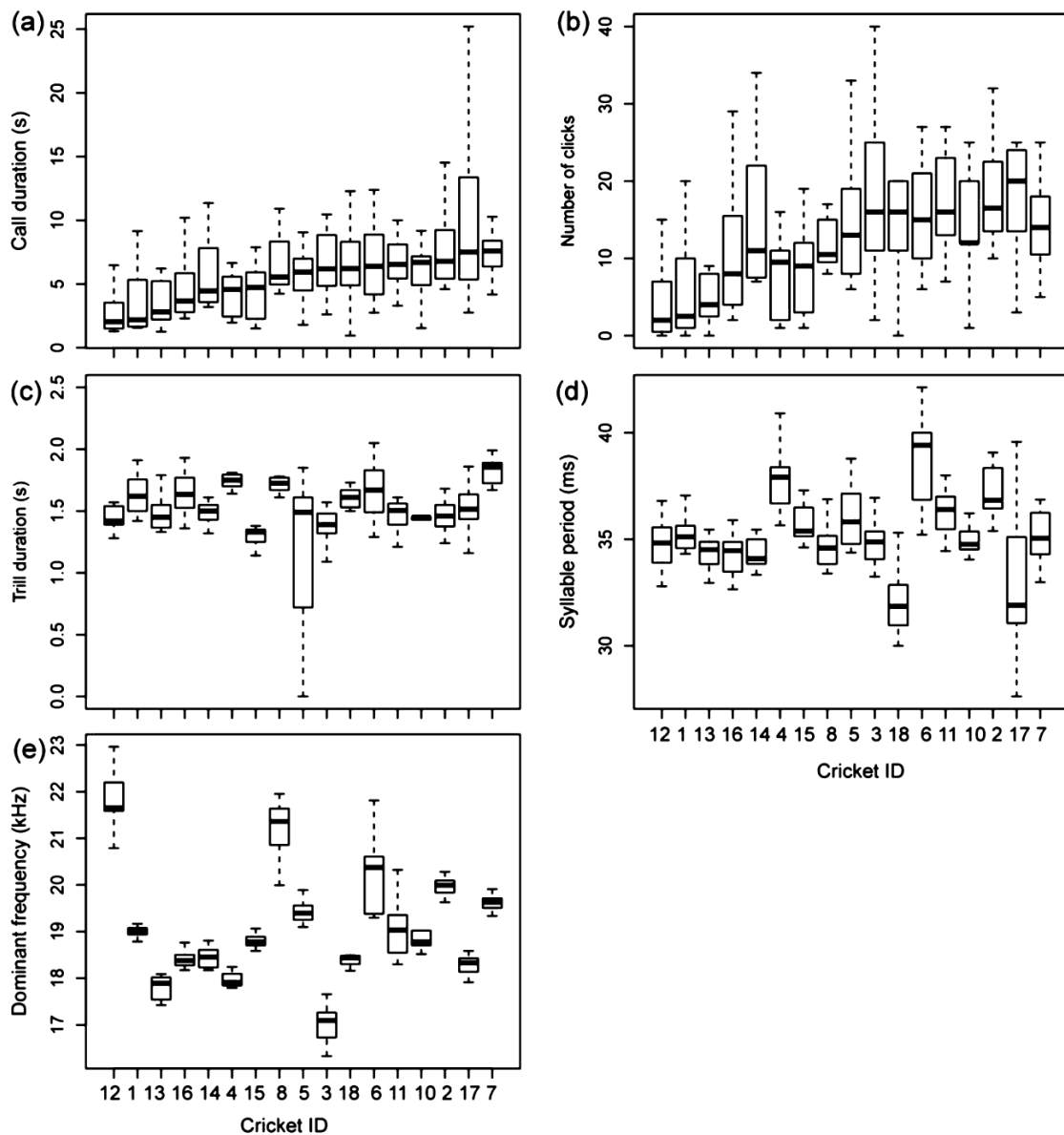
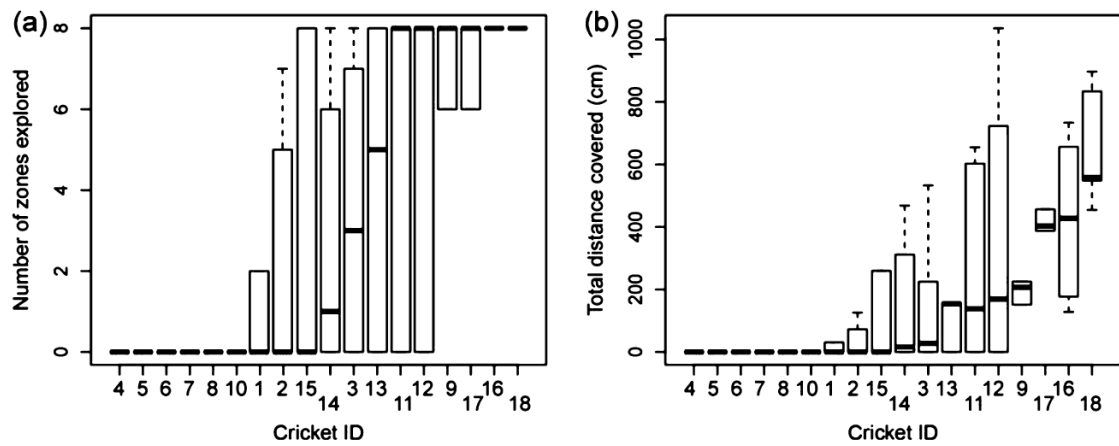


Figure 2. Boxplots show differences in the call properties of individual *L. bitaeniatus*

males. Thick horizontal bar shows the median; lower and upper margin of the box

indicate the inter-quartile range and whiskers refer to minimum and maximum data

points.



855 **Figure 3.** Boxplots show differences in the exploratory behaviour between individual *L.*
856 *bitaeniatus* males. Thick horizontal bar shows the median; lower and upper margin of
857 the box indicate the inter-quartile range and whiskers refer to minimum and maximum
858 data points.
859

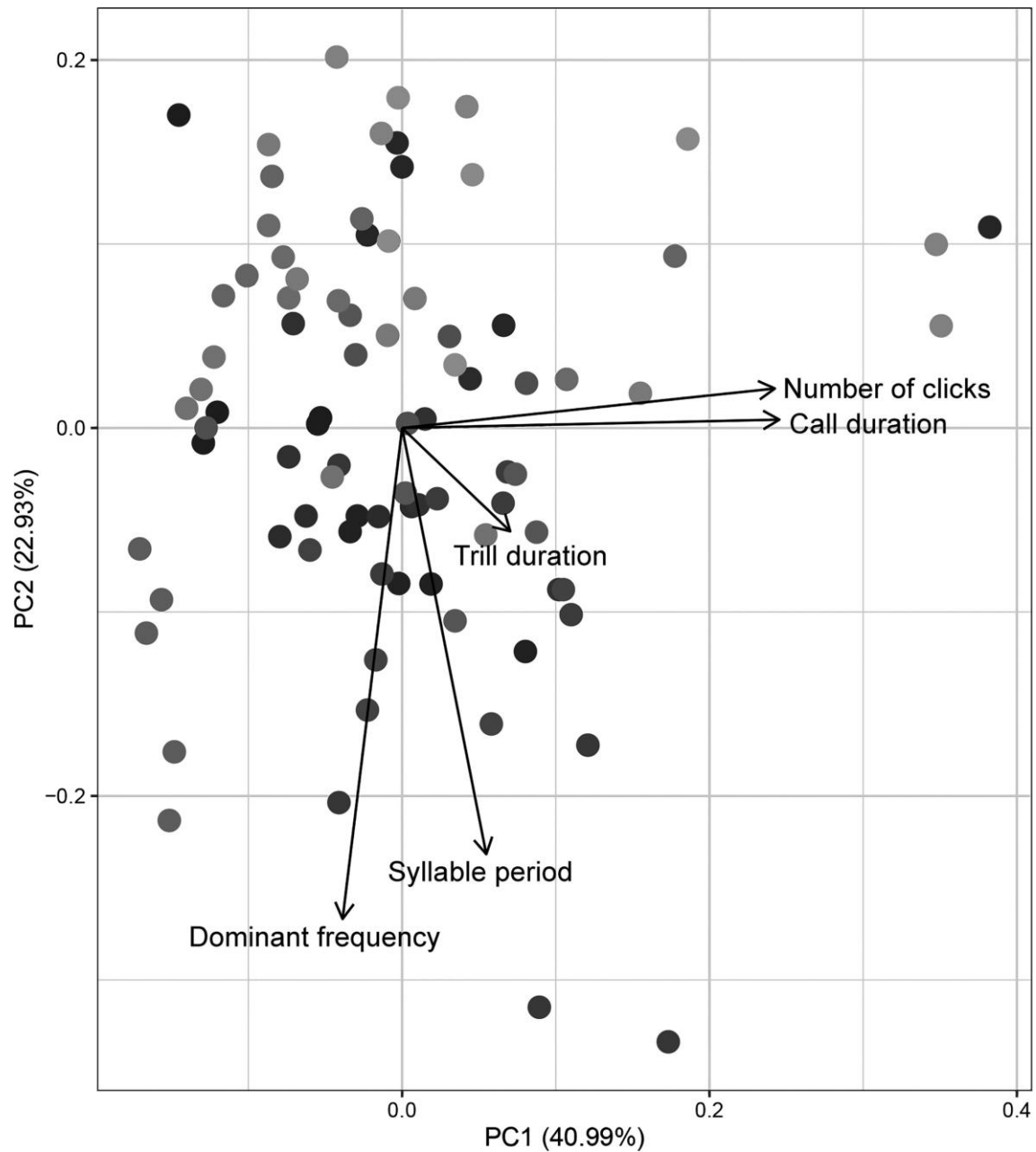


Figure 4. Principal component analysis of the five repeatable call properties for *L. bitaeniatus* males shows that number of clicks and call duration are strongly correlated and can be summarised along the first component (PC1). Dominant frequency and syllable period can be explained along the second component (PC2). Data for different cricket individuals are represented with points of different shades of grey.