PREPRINT

Reproductive individuality of clonal fish raised in near-identical environments and its link to early-life behavioral individuality

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ABSTRACT

Recent studies have documented among-individual variation that is unexplained by genetic

or apparent environmental differences, but it remains an open question whether such

seemingly stochastic variation has fitness consequences. We perform a life-history

experiment with naturally clonal fish (*Poecilia formosa*), separated directly after birth into

near-identical (i.e., highly standardized) environments, quantifying 2522 offspring from 152

broods over 280 days. We find that (i) individuals differ consistently in the size of offspring

and broods produced over consecutive broods, (ii) these differences are observed even

when controlling for trade-offs between brood size, offspring size and reproductive onset,

indicating individual differences in life-history productivity and (iii) early-life behavioral

individuality in activity and feeding patterns, with among-individual differences in feeding

being predictive of growth, and consequently offspring size. In this work, we provide

experimental evidence that processes unexplained by genetic and apparent environmental

differences translate into predictable differences in life-history measures and ultimately

fitness.

INTRODUCTION

Phenotypic differences among individuals from the same species abound throughout the

animal kingdom [1–3], with substantial consequences for fitness, ecology and evolution [4–8]. It is

commonly thought that such individuality (if not minor and inconsequential 'noise' or

'idiosyncrasies') is primarily caused by genetic and/or apparent environmental differences.

More recently, however, this long-standing paradigm has been experimentally challenged,

with accumulating evidence that even genetically identical individuals raised in near-

identical (i.e., highly standardized) environments develop substantial phenotypic differences

[9–11]: isogenic fruit flies, for example, develop differences in locomotor handedness and

wing-folding, phototaxis, and object-fixated locomotion [12–14]; naturally clonal fish separated

directly after birth into highly standardized environments develop repeatable differences in

activity levels that are already present from the first day of life [15,16] (see [17,18] for related

findings in genetically identical mice and clonal pea aphids).

Such findings are important as they demonstrate that genetic and apparent environmental

differences are not the only potent source of variation among individuals, suggesting that

factors like pre-birth processes (including epigenetics), development *per se* and/or minor

environmental differences may represent other key drivers of phenotypic differences [19–22].

Up to now, however, all recent studies on the emergence of variation in the absence of

genetic and apparent environmental differences have focused on characterizing emergent

behavioral differences (and their neurobiological underpinnings) and it remains an open

question whether or to what extent these differences really matter.

One of the most direct ways to answer this question is to investigate whether phenotypic

differences that emerge under genetic and environmental standardization extend to those

aspects of the phenotype that directly affect fitness. The goal of the present study is to do

exactly this. We performed an experimental study with a live-bearing, naturally clonal

freshwater fish, the Amazon molly, *Poecilia formosa*. Directly after birth, we separated

genetically identical individuals (N = 34) into near-identical environments and reared them

under highly standardized conditions for 280 days (i.e., 40 weeks). We utilized automated

high-resolution tracking of activity and feeding patterns to characterize their early-life

behavioral profiles over the first 28 days of their lives (daily recordings for 10 hours at 0.2 s

resolution, amounting to a total of 9,520 recording hours and 171.4 million data points) [23].

We then characterized reproductive profiles: recording the onset of reproduction, the size

of each brood produced (i.e., the number of offspring per brood; in total, N = 152 broods),

and the size of all offspring produced (N = 2522 total offspring), thereby observing 4.5 ±

1.1 broods (mean ± SD) per female (gestation takes approx. 30 days [24,25]. Individual body

size was measured weekly.

We focus on three key research questions. First, do genetically identical individuals

separated at birth into highly standardized environments develop significant among-

individual differences in reproductive traits, i.e., repeatable differences in offspring size

and/or brood size? Second, are among-individual differences in reproductive traits, if

present, indicative of differences in (i) life-history productivity, i.e., the ability to produce

new biomass [26,27] and/or (ii) how individuals balance the trade-off between brood size vs.

offspring size [28–31]? Third, are reproductive differences, if present, related to early-life

behavioral differences? Such a link could be possible via growth, where behavior (in

particular feeding behavior) could be linked to growth and growth, in turn, to reproductive

output [28,32,33]. As an underlying assumption, and as shown previously [15,16], we expected

repeatable early-life behavioral variation. Whenever appropriate, we focus on repeatability

as a key parameter to quantify and test for individuality [3,34,35].

RESULTS

Early-life behavioral individuality

We find that genetically identical individuals separated into near-identical environments on

the day they were born exhibit strong behavioral individuality during the first four weeks of

life, both in activity (repeatability (R) for activity = 0.371, 95% CI = [0.329, 0.413]) and

feeding behavior (R = 0.183, 95% CI = [0.145, 0.224]). These repeatable differences even

increase when controlling for within-individual variation caused by individuals growing and

becoming older during our observations (adjusted R for activity = 0.571, 95% CI = [0.532,

0.621]; adjusted R for feeding = 0.238, 95% CI = [0.194, 0.285]). Daily activity and feeding

behavior are negatively correlated (estimate = -9.134, 95% CI [-10.550 – -7.719] p-value <

0.0001, R^2 = 0.164, **Supplementary Table 7**), this may be explained by more active fish also

being more active during the feeding period, thereby having less time to feed at the

stationary food resource.

Reproductive individuality and life-history productivity variation

We find consistent among-individual differences in both the average size of offspring

(**Figure 1a**, R = 0.396, 95% CI [0.308, 0.484]) and the number of offspring produced (**Figure**

1b, R = 0.177, 95% CI = [0.117, 0.238]) over consecutive broods. Interestingly, the trade-off

between brood size and offspring size explains only a small amount of the variation

observed (estimate = -0.013, 95% CI [-0.018, 0.007], p-value < 0.001, partial R^2 = 0.115)

(**Figure 1c**, **Supplementary Table 8**). Even when controlling for this trade-off, among-

individual differences remain: given the same brood size, onset of reproduction, and size at

parturition, some individuals consistently produce larger offspring than others (adjusted R

for offspring size = 0.134, 95% CI = [0.085, 0.192]); similarly, when controlling for onset of

reproduction, size at parturition, and offspring size, some individuals consistently produce

larger broods than others (adjusted R for brood size = 0.077, 95% CI = [0.050, 0.114]).

These findings strongly suggest that – next to developing repeatable among-individual

differences in offspring size and brood size – these genetically identical individuals, raised

individually in highly standardized environments, also differ in life-history productivity.

We stress that both offspring- and brood size are among the most direct fitness

components one can measure, and seemingly small - but repeatable - differences in these

traits may have profound long-term consequences. This can be seen, for example, when

considering the cumulative number of offspring produced, where even relatively minor

individual differences in brood size, when expressed consistently, result in large among-

individual differences in total reproductive output (**Figure 1d**).

All analyses on female reproductive output are controlled for descent (i.e., mother ID) and

female size at parturition (see **Supplementary Note 5** 'Effect of female size on reproductive

output' for an illustration of the effect of female size at parturition on offspring and brood

size and **Supplementary Table 9** for statistical analyses). Moreover, we controlled

experimentally for potential effects of breeding tanks and/or males (see 'Reproductive

profiles' in Methods). Statistical analyses confirming that our results are robust towards

potential male/tank IDs are provided in **Supplementary Note 3** 'Robustness of results with

respect to potential male and/or tank effects'.

Link between behavioral and reproductive individuality

Despite no direct link between our two behavioral measures, activity and feeding, and our

three reproductive traits, i.e., offspring size (**Figure 2 a-b**), brood size (**Figure 2 c-d**), and

onset of reproduction (**Figure 2 e-f**) (**Supplementary Table 9**), we find an indirect link

between one of our behavioral traits and reproduction: fish that spend more time feeding

grow to a larger size (estimate = 0.007, 95% CI [0.003, 0.012], p-value = 0.002, partial R^2 =

0.266; **Figure 3b, Figure 3d**), and larger fish, in turn, produce larger offspring (**Figure 3c**;

estimate = 0.619, 95% CI [0.299, 0.939], p-value < 0.001, partial R^2 = 0.129). Larger fish also

start reproducing later (estimate = 55.537, 95% CI [25.189, 85.886], p-value = 0.001, partial

R^2 = 0.310; **Figure 3f**), but there is no effect on brood size (**Figure 3e**) (**Supplementary**

Table 11).

In contrast to feeding behavior, we find no indirect link between activity and reproduction

(**Figure 3a, Supplementary Table 10**), nor do we find an effect of our behavioral traits on

individual growth rates (predicted from fitted growth curves; see Methods) (**Supplementary**

Table 10). We note growth rate and onset of reproduction are positively correlated: fish

that grow faster start reproducing later (estimate = 980.383, 95% CI [235.137, 1725.629], p-

value = 0.012, partial R^2 = 0.188), but there is no effect of growth rate on brood- and

offspring size (**Supplementary Table 11**). Throughout, qualitatively the same results are

obtained when statistically controlling for potential effects of breeding tanks and/or males

(see **Supplementary Note 3** 'Robustness of results with respect to potential male and/or

tank effects').

DISCUSSION

We find that genetically identical individuals, raised separately and in highly standardized

environments, develop repeatable differences in key reproductive characteristics. In

particular, when considering consecutive broods, individuals differ consistently in how many

offspring they produce and in how large these offspring are. While we find evidence for a

weak trade-off between offspring size and number, repeatable among-individual

differences are observed even when controlling for this trade-off, as well as for body size

and onset of reproduction, providing clear evidence that individuals differ in life-history

productivity. While previous studies have provided firm evidence that substantial among-

individual variation in anatomical-, behavioral- and neurobiological traits can emerge even

in the absence of genetic and apparent environmental differences [10,13,15], the current study

builds on and substantially extends these studies by demonstrating that the emerging

variation extends to aspects of the phenotype that are directly associated with fitness.

Interestingly, we find no direct link between early-life behavioral differences and differences

in reproductive traits. It is conceivable, however, that a direct link between early-life

behavioral and later-in-life reproductive traits may only become apparent in non-benign

and/or more complex environments. To give a concrete example, in our experimental set-

up, there are only minimal differential costs and benefits associated with different

behavioral phenotypes: fish were presented with a stationary food resource, located at a

standardized position in the tanks with no additional structures. There was no need to

search for food and no cost associated with exploiting the stationary food resource. In

contrast, in a more naturalistic context, activity might be linked to the ability to find food

and the exploitation of a food resource might be risky [36,37]. That said, it will be interesting to

see whether future studies, taking the above and other factors into account, will be able to

establish a link between early-life behavioral individuality and reproduction.

While we do not find a direct link between reproduction and early-life behavior, we find the

size of offspring produced to be indirectly linked to early-life feeding behavior: some

individuals feed consistently more than others, individuals that feed more grow to a larger

predicted final size, and individuals with a larger final size have larger offspring (but not

larger broods). The allocation of resources into increasing offspring size, rather than

offspring number, may represent an adaptation to environments in which larger offspring

have higher fitness, e.g., resource limitation, competition, or high juvenile mortality

(cannibalism or size-dependent predation) (reviewed in [29]). All of the above factors may

apply to our experimental design: during the reproduction period, individuals were fed a

standardized amount of food that they shared with a *P. mexicana* male, which we kept in

the female's tank as a sperm donor, potentially causing both resource limitation and

competition. Furthermore, offspring were removed from the females' tanks directly after

parturition, which decreased the risk of cannibalism but may have caused perceived

predation from the female's perspective.

We find that systematic (i.e., repeatable) among-individual differences in key fitness

components can emerge even in the absence of genetic and apparent environmental

differences. Future work may compare the observed differences in repeatedly expressed

reproductive traits to other iteroparous species, taking genetic and/or apparent

environmental variation into account, which will give us a better understanding of the

magnitude of the observed differences. Furthermore, we will need to investigate both the

causes and consequences of the observed differences. First, all individuals in our study

were exposed to one (very specific) environment, and it will be important to investigate

whether the observed differences can also be detected in other environments. It will be

particularly informative to include predation risk, a key determinant of fitness and major

factor shaping life-history trade-offs [38–42], and to investigate, for example, if high-

productivity individuals are differently affected by predators than low-productivity

individuals. Second, future studies should investigate the mechanistic causes underlying the

development of systematic differences in reproductive traits in the absence of genetic and

apparent environmental differences. In principle, the same set of factors (stochastic

developmental processes, minute environmental differences in combination with positive

feedback loops, and pre-birth influences including epigenetic and maternal effects) that are

thought to explain the emergence of behavioral individuality in the absence of genetic and

apparent environmental differences may also give rise to reproductive individuality [10, 16,19, 20,

21]. It is intriguing to speculate that pre-birth processes (e.g., within-brood variation in

maternal egg provisioning or in the exact starting time of embryonic development) initiate

the observed reproductive differences, e.g., by creating early-life physiological differences.

It is also interesting to note that mechanisms such as developmental instability and

stochasticity may themselves be selected for as a means of generating adaptive variation

through bet-hedging[43]. Detailed studies are needed to further investigate these and other

hypotheses relating to underlying mechanisms driving individuality. Third, in order to

evaluate the consequences of the observed differences in brood- and offspring size, it will

be important to investigate whether and to what extent these differences are heritable. Do

offspring from mothers with larger offspring (or larger brood sizes) sire larger offspring (or

large brood sizes) themselves? While all our individuals are genetically identical, such

inheritance is still conceivable, for example via epigenetic mechanisms [44–46].

The study of among-individual variation is one of the central themes in ecology and

evolution. While such variation – if not minor and inconsequential 'noise' – has traditionally

been thought to be caused by genetic and apparent environmental differences, evidence is

accumulating that even in the absence of such differences, substantial among-individual

variation can emerge. Here, we show that the emergent among-individual variation extends

to aspects of the phenotype that directly affect fitness. Put differently, we find that among-

individual variation that arises under highly standardized conditions reflects more than just

'idiosyncrasies' or 'noise' – it really matters.

METHODS

All animal care and experimental protocols complied with local and federal laws and

guidelines and were approved by the appropriate governing body in Berlin, Germany, the

Landesamt fur Gesundheit und Soziales (LaGeSo G-0224/20).

Study species and holding conditions

Amazon mollies used in our experiment were obtained from a stock kept at Humboldt-

Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, Germany). The lineage used in our experiment was established

prior to the start of the experiment by holding a single Amazon molly from the stock

population as well as a *P. mexicana* male and their resulting offspring in a 50 liter tank

(approx. 20-50 fish, 12:12h light:dark cycle, air temperature control at approx. 24±1°C,

weekly water changes, fish were fed with Sera vipan baby powder food twice a day). Before

the experiment, we separated potential mothers (i.e., large females, all of whom were

sisters) from the isolated lineage and let them give birth in individual tanks; this allowed us

to track the mother ID (N = 3) of individuals used in our experiment.

Early-life behavior

Test fish were transferred to individual observation tanks on the day they were born (see

Supplementary Figure 1 for an illustration of experimental tanks and **Supplementary Table**

1 for statistical analyses confirming environmental standardization). Behavioral observations

started the next day, i.e., the first full day of life. We recorded individuals daily over the first

28 days of their life from above with a Basler acA5472 camera (5 frames per second).

Activity was observed over the first 8 hours of each day, followed by a 2-hour feeding

observation period. During the feeding period, individuals were presented with a 'food

patch', that was positioned at a standardized location in the tank (**Supplementary Figure 1**).

Food patches were prepared every 2 to 3 days using Sera vipan baby powder food and

agar (protocol is provided in **Supplementary Note 2** 'Food patch preparation').

In total, we collected 952 recordings of daily activity and feeding behavior, respectively (34

individuals, each individual recorded over 28 days). To assess activity, we used a total of

941 recordings (mean ± SD recording length: 471.7 ± 29.9 min; 11 days were removed

from the data due to technical issues). To calculate how much time individuals spent

feeding, we processed 932 feeding recordings (mean ± SD recording length = 120.2 ± 11.2

min; 20 recordings were removed due to technical issues). Recordings were tracked using

the software Biotracker [47], and the movement data obtained from Biotracker 3.2.1 (csv-files

with xy-coordinates over time) were processed (visualization, calculation of metrics) with a

custom-made repository we developed for this purpose [48]. Individual activity was calculated

from xy-coordinates over time, in steps of 0.2 sec, as the average distance moved (cm) in

one second. Individual time spent feeding was calculated as the amount of time an

individual spent in the 'feeding zone', a 5 x 13 cm large zone surrounding the food patch

[47,48].

Reproductive profiles

After our early-life behavioral observations, individuals were transferred to individual

breeding tanks (11 liters each, visual separation between individual tanks, equipped with a

small plastic pipe (length = 4 cm, diameter = 2 cm) and 'sera biofibres', a loose bundle of

green plastic fibers, resembling thread algae). A unified flow-through water system ensured

standardized water conditions and a single *P. mexicana* male was placed in each tank. The

Amazon molly is a gynogenetic species, i.e., sperm from one of the parental species (*P.*

mexicana, *P. latipinna*) is needed to trigger embryogenesis but the male's DNA is not

incorporated into the offspring's genome [49–52] (but see [53] for the rare possibility of paternal

introgression). Breeding tanks were checked for offspring daily. Once a female gave birth to

a brood, all offspring were photographed and counted. Offspring standard length (i.e., the

length from the tip of the snout to the end of the caudal peduncle) was measured from the

photos using ImageJ [54]. In total, we recorded 152 broods and measured the size of 2522

offspring from 144 broods (no measurements for 8 broods). Individuals produced on

average 4.5 ± 1.1 broods (mean ± SD). We excluded all individuals from our analyses with

no or partial reproductive data (N = 11 females). Feeding was standardized: twice a day for

5 days a week, fish received 1/64 tsp (up to the age of 70 days) or 1/32 tsp (from the age 70

to 280 days) of powder food.

In order to experimentally control for potential systematic male and/or breeding tank

effects on female reproductive output, females were swapped once a week in a randomized

manner between the different breeding tanks (while males remained in their tank). Over the

course of the experiment, females visited 22 ± 2 males and 19 ± 1 breeding tanks (mean ±

SD; the number of males exceeds the number of tanks, as some males were replaced, see

Supplementary Note 3 'Robustness of results with respect to potential male and/or tank

effects'). By providing each female with a series of different tanks (and thus males), we

ensured that potential differences between males and/or tanks did not cause systematic

differences in female reproductive characteristics (i.e., repeatable differences in brood size

and offspring size). We chose to swap females between breeding tanks rather than males

because swapping males would have made it impossible to distinguish between the

potential effects of breeding tanks and female identity. As a result of our experimental

approach, we cannot isolate the effects of breeding tanks from the effects of males, but we

were able to control for both factors simultaneously. See **Supplementary Note 3**

'Robustness of results with respect to potential male and/or tank effects' for further analyses

demonstrating that all our results and conclusions are indeed robust with respect to

potential variation caused by breeding tanks and/or males.

Long-term growth

Standard lengths of focal individuals were measured from photos once a week, using

ImageJ [54] (34 ± 1 measurements per individual, mean ± SD). We fit individual growth curves

using the von Bertalanffy growth model [55], a logistic function commonly used to model fish

growth. Estimated parameters in this function are the theoretical age when size is zero (t_0),

the growth coefficient (K), and the maximum predicted (i.e., asymptotic) size (L_{inf}). For all

analyses, we used predicted sizes estimated using individual growth curves rather than raw

measurements and characterized individual growth via K and L_{inf} obtained from those

individual growth curves.

Statistical analysis

General details

Data were analyzed in R version 4.2.1 [56]. Most parsimonious LMs (linear models) and LMMs

(linear mixed-effect models; models built using the lme4-package [57]) were fit via stepwise-

backward removal of non-significant predictors. Model assumptions were visually assured

using residual- and q-q plots. In the main text, we report estimates and p-values for

significant predictors only. The effects of covariates are presented in **Supplementary Note**

4 'Model output main analyses'. Most importantly, individual size at parturition is related to

both the number and size of offspring produced (model summaries in **Supplementary**

Table 9, illustration in **Supplementary Figure 2**); and we found mother ID (N = 3) to be

related to individual growth and reproductive output (**Supplementary Table 9** and **10**). We

therefore included mother ID as a covariate in all models (LMs and LMMs), and individual

size at parturition wherever appropriate. In all LMMs, test fish ID was included as a random

term. Individual size on the first day of life did not affect early-life behavior, reproductive

output, or growth (**Supplementary Tables 12-14** in **Supplementary Note 6** 'No effects of

size at birth on behavior, reproduction, and growth'); and was therefore not considered

during analyses. For significant predictors, we calculated partial R^2 using the sensemakr-

and r2glmm-package [58,59] (for LMs and LMMs, respectively). Complete model summaries of

all full (containing all predictors) and final models (containing significant predictors only) are

provided in **Supplementary Note 4** 'Model output main analyses'. Model summary tables

(including marginal and conditional R^2 following [60]) were built using the package sjPlot [61].

Repeatabilities

We estimated repeatabilities with 95% CIs (confidence intervals) in two ways: first by

building LMMs with only the target variable as response and female ID as random term, but

no predictors (i.e., raw repeatability), and then by adding fixed effects to the model,

allowing us to estimate the amount of variation caused by consistent between-individual

differences while controlling for variation explained by other factors (i.e., adjusted

repeatability). The significance of consistent among-individual differences was derived from

the 95% CI being distinctly different to 0 (95% CI based on 1000 model simulations) [62].

To test for 'reproductive individuality', we first calculated raw repeatabilities in the size of

broods (N = 152 broods) and the size of offspring (N = 144 broods, average offspring size

per brood) over all broods produced. Then, to test for among-individual differences in

productivity, we adjusted repeatabilities of both brood- and offspring size for onset, female

size at parturition, and mother ID. For the model on brood size, we additionally included

offspring size as predictor and vice versa (i.e., we accounted for brood size, offspring size,

and onset trade-offs).

To test for early-life behavioral individuality, we calculated raw repeatabilities for activity (N

= 941 observations of 34 individuals) and time spent feeding (LMM with N = 932

observations of 34 individuals), observed daily over the first 28 days of life. We also

adjusted repeatabilities for size and age (week 1-4, categorical variable), i.e., we accounted

for variation that was caused by individuals growing and aging over the observation period.

We further included a size-age interaction term as predictor (activity was differently affected

by size, depending on age). For repeatability calculations, activity was log-transformed for

normality. We tested if early-life activity (response) and feeding (predictor) are correlated

(LMM N = 931 observations of 34 individuals).

Link between early-life behavior and reproduction

To test for a direct behavior-reproduction link, we built three models with either brood size

(LMM with N = 152 broods), offspring size (LMM with N = 144 broods), or reproductive

onset (LM with N = 34 individuals) as response. In all models, activity and feeding (averaged

over 28 days) were modeled as predictors.

To test for an indirect behavior-reproduction link, we first tested for a link between behavior

and growth: we fit one model on the predicted final size L_{inf} (LM with N = 34 individuals)

and growth rate K (LM with N = 34 individuals), with activity and feeding as predictors

(average behavior over 28 days). When having K as the response, we additionally included

L_{inf} as a covariate to control for the effect L_{inf} has on K; i.e., bigger fish grow slower to their

final size L_{inf}, (LM with L_{inf} as response and K as well as mother ID as predictors: intercept [CI]

= 6.09 [5.8, 6.4]; estimate of K [CI] = -16.9 [-20.0, -13.8], R^2 = 0.89). To test for the link

between growth and reproduction, we fit a model on each brood size (LMM with N = 152

broods), offspring size (LMM with N = 144 broods), and onset (LM with N = 34 individuals);

including K and L_{inf} as predictors and female age at parturition (not in the onset-model) as a

covariate.

DATA AVAILABILITY

The data generated in this study have been deposited in Figshare

(https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.23971599.v1) [63]. Source data are provided with this

paper.

CODE AVAILABILITY

The code used to calculate daily activity and feeding behavior is publicly available on

GitHub [48].

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

JK and MW acquired funding. All authors conceived and designed the experiment. US conducted the experiment. US, SE, and MW outlined the data analysis. US conducted the data analysis. US and MW wrote the first manuscript draft. All authors commented on the manuscript and contributed to the final version.

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors declare no competing interests.

554 FIGURES

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Fig. 1: Reproductive individuality. (a-b) Individuals (N = 34) differ consistently in the size-
and number of offspring produced over successive broods (we recorded 152 broods and
measured N = 2522 offspring from 144 broods, no size measurements for 8 broods); boxes
are sorted by median offspring size; shown are median (middle line), 25th to 75th percentile
(box), and 5th to 95th percentile (whiskers) as well as the raw data (points) for each individual.
(c) The brood size vs. offspring size trade-off explains only very little of the variation; shown
are individual means (points) ± SD (error bars) in brood/offspring size (N = 2522 offspring
from 144 broods). The regression line (black) with 95% confidence interval (grey shadow)
were estimated via linear mixed-effects model. (d) Differences in reproductive productivity
can have profound long-term consequences because reproductive output accumulates over
time, shown is the cumulative number of offspring produced by individuals over the first
280 days of life. (a-d) Coloration by onset (yellow represents late onset, purple represents
early onset).

Fig. 2: **No direct link between early-life behavioral individuality and reproductive individuality.** We find no effect of early-life behavior (activity and feeding) on offspring size (a-b), brood size (c-d), or onset of reproduction. (e-f) Shown are individual means (points, N = 34 individuals) ± SD (error bars) (N (activity measurements) = 941, N (feeding measurements) = 932, N (size measured offspring) = 2522, N (broods) = 152). (a-f) Individuals are colored differently.

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Fig. 3: Indirect link between early-life differences in feeding behavior and offspring size.
(a) There is no effect of early-life activity on the maximum predicted size L_{inf}, but early-life
feeding behavior and reproductive output are indirectly connected via growth: (b)
individuals that feed more grow to a larger size (feeding is presented as mean ± SD, N =
932 feeding measurements), and (c) larger fish produce larger offspring. (f) Larger fish also
start reproducing later but (e) individual maximum size and brood size are not linked. (a-c,
e) Shown are individual means (points) ± SD (error bars) (N (activity measurements) = 941, N
(feeding measurements) = 932, N (size measured offspring) = 2522, N (broods) = 152). (b, c,
f) Regression lines (black) with 95% confidence intervals (grey shadow) were estimated via
linear mixed-effects models. (d) Shown are individual von Bertalanffy growth curves (lines)
with raw data (points). (a-f) Coloration by average time spent feeding (yellow represent long
feeding times, black represents short feeding times).

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Supplementary information for:

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Reproductive individuality of clonal fish raised in near-identical environments and its link to early-life behavioral individuality

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Supplementary Note 1: Behavioral observations

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Supplementary Figure 1: Experimental set-up for behavioral observations. One
experimental unit with 2 observation tanks. Water level in the tanks: 7 cm. Food
patches were present during the feeding only. Observation tanks were illuminated
individually from below with 4 LEDs per tank (each LED is 100cm, 12V, color
temperature = 5500 K, light output = approx. 1570 lumen; tanks were
manufactured from white polyethylene, which allowed light from underneath to get
through). There was no visual contact between observation tanks, but tanks were
connected via a flow-through water system (24 observation tanks split into 4 flow-
through systems). We found no significant effect of the tank system (1-4), distance
to the external filter unit (0-2m) or centrality of the tank on individual daily activity or
feeding (**Supplementary Table 1**).

Supplementary Table 1 Summaries of linear-mixed effects models testing for
potential environmental effects on early-life behavior (activity and feeding). We
found no effects of tank system (1-4), distance to the filter (0-2 meters) or centrality
(center vs. periphery, referring to a tank's position within a filter system) on individual
behavior. Shown are full models (containing all predictor variables; left) and final
models (significant predictors only; right).

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Activity [cm/sec]	Intercept	0.103	-0.284 – 0.489	-	-0.027	-0.185 – 0.132	-
	Tank system [2]	-0.219	-0.654 – 0.216		-	-	-
	Tank system [3]	-0.228	-0.653 – 0.196	0.699	-	-	-
	Tank system [4]	-0.119	-0.518 – 0.279		-	-	-
	Distance to filter [m]	-0.125	-0.312 – 0.062	0.195	-	-	-
	Centrality [periphery]	0.189	-0.122 – 0.500	0.238	-	-	-
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.37			0.37		
	τ_{00}	0.18 Female ID			0.21 Female ID		
	ICC	0.33			0.36		
	N	34 Female ID			34 Female ID		
	Observations	941			941		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.051 / 0.363			0.000 / 0.363		
Feeding [min]	Intercept	49.614	38.313 – 60.915	-	48.068	43.127 – 53.008	-
	Tank system [2]	4.877	-7.840 – 17.594		-	-	-
	Tank system [3]	11.747	-0.661 – 24.156	0.091	-	-	-
	Tank system [4]	-3.828	-15.486 – 7.830		-	-	-
	Distance to filter [m]	1.127	-4.340 – 6.595	0.686	-	-	-
	Centrality [periphery]	-8.100	-17.191 – 0.991	0.081	-	-	-
	Random effects						
	σ^2	845.77			845.81		
	τ_{00}	134.08 Female ID			184.56 Female ID		
	ICC	0.14			0.18		
	N	34 Female ID			34 Female ID		
	Observations	931			931		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.049 / 0.179			0.000 / 0.179		

Supplementary Note 2: Food patch preparation

<u>Ingredients</u>

-    0.5g Agar (Bio Agar-Agar, Ruf)

-    100 ml tap water

-    14 g powder food (Sera vipan baby)

<u>Materials</u>

-    One fine scale

-    One 150 ml beaker

-    One small pot

-    One stove plate

-    One pipette

-    Food patch cups (max. volume = 2ml)

<u>Instructions</u>

1. Prepare clean and dry food patch forms.

2. Weigh the amount of agar needed in a 150 ml beaker.

3. Add 100 ml of water.

4. Fill the water-agar mixture into a small pot and cook for 2 min at medium heat.

5. Remove pot from stove and add powder food, mix thoroughly.

6. Let cool down for approx. 5 min at room temperature until agar starts binding.

7. Quickly fill the agar-food mixture into the cups using the pipette.

8. Let the food patches harden in the fridge for approx. 10 min without a lid.

9. Store food patches in a container with a lid (e.g., petri dishes) in the fridge until

further proceeding (can be stored for at least 4 days when stored at 4°C).

Note:

The protocol can be modified regarding the amount of food or agar added. Adding more agar will

give the mixture a firmer texture. Using less agar is not advised. The amount of agar used here is the

least amount possible (resulting in a very soft texture) in order to allow juvenile fish to feed on the

food patches. The amount of food can be both decreased and increased allowing for variations in

food quality; food variations may require adjustments in the amount of agar used.

Supplementary Note 3: Robustness of results with respect to potential male and/or tank effects

We tested whether our results and conclusions are robust with respect to potential variation between males and/or breeding tanks. In order to do so, we used our data to back-calculate the presumed males that triggered embryonic development/tanks where embryonic development was triggered (in the following: male/tank ID) for all broods (see "Assigning male/tank IDs" below). We then repeated all our analyses involving female reproductive output, controlling for male/tank ID. Importantly, we find that there is no effect of male/tank ID on female reproductive individuality (**Supplementary Table 2**) or its link to early-life behavior (**Supplementary Tables 3-6**), i.e., we find that all our results are robust and qualitatively the same when controlling statistically for potential variation between males and/or breeding tanks.

More specifically, we recalculated normal and adjusted repeatabilities using the same models that we used in the main text (for model structures see main text) except that we now additionally included male/tank ID as a random effect. Including male/tank ID has no effect on female repeatabilities (**Supplementary Table 2**). We note that male/tank ID is associated with repeatable differences in offspring size (but not brood size) (see **Supplementary Table 2**). This finding should be treated with caution with respect to interpreting it as a potential male effect, as our

experiment was neither designed to detect potential male effects nor to distinguish

between potential male and potential breeding tanks effects but rather to detect

female effects while controlling for both male and tank effects.

Similarly, for all other analyses involving brood size or offspring size, we find

qualitatively the same results as presented in the main text when including

male/tank ID as a random effect: there is a weak brood vs. offspring size trade-off

(**Supplementary Table 3**); there is no direct effect of early-life behavior on

reproductive output (**Supplementary Table 4**) but larger fish (which feed more)

produce larger offspring (**Supplementary Table 5**) (to compare with main text

analyses see **Supplementary Table 8**, **Table 9** and **Table 11**). Similarly, we find

qualitatively the same results as presented in the main text when testing for a

potential effect of female size at birth on reproductive output (**Supplementary**

Table 6) (to compare with main text analyses see model summary in **Supplementary**

Table 13).

The fact that all our results and conclusions are robust with respect to the above

statistical controls of potential effects of males and/or breeding tanks supports the

effectiveness of our experimental design, which was aimed at experimentally

controlling for both effects of males and breeding tanks simultaneously (see

"Reproductive profiles" in the main text), was successful.

Assigning male/tank IDs

Poecilid females typically undergo a reproductive cycle with approx. 2-3 fertile days,

which are induced at maturation and immediately after parturition, followed by

approx. 30 days during which females are unreceptive to sperm while fertilized eggs

are carried internally until parturition [1,2]. For all broods, we thus assigned the

male/tank ID to that male/tank a female was with 30 ± 2 days before parturition. If a

female was with two different males/in two different tanks within that time frame, we

assigned male/tank ID to the male/tank she was with on day 30. If a female was with

two different males/in two different tanks on day 30, we assigned male/tank ID to

the latter (N = 27 broods).

Because we have low certainty in male/tank ID (*N* = 100 broods with female access

to two males/tanks within 30 ± 2 days prior to parturition), we additionally assigned

male/tank ID using two alternative methods: first male/tank ID (assigned to the first

male/tank a female was 30 ± 2 days prior to parturition) and last male/tank ID

(assigned to the second male/tank a female was 30 ± 2 days prior to parturition),

accounting, for example, for potential first or last male precedence or deviations

from the average gestation period. All analyses presented (**Supplementary Tables**

2-6) were carried out with the "exact" male/tank assignment method but all results

are robust with respect to the assignment method, i.e., we repeated all analyses

with either the first or last male/tank ID and received qualitatively the same results

(not presented here, except **Supplementary Table 2** repeatabilities).

Again, during the reproductive phase of the experiment, females were swapped

weekly between breeding tanks, where each breeding tank held a 'resident' male

that did not switch tanks (thus tank ID and male ID usually had a one-to-one

correspondence). During the experiment, however, some males needed to be

replaced, leading to a few incidences where tank ID and male ID were not identical

(N = 7 broods). Analyses presented here (**Supplementary Tables 2-6**) were carried

out with male ID; however, we repeated all of the above analyses (**Supplementary**

Tables 2-6) with tank ID (N = 39 tank where embryonic development was triggered)

instead of male ID (N = 45 males that triggered embryonic development) and

obtained qualitatively the same results (not presented).

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744   *latipinna* (Pisces: Poeciliidae). *Copeia* 1986, 467–472 (1986).

745   2.   Snelson, F. F., Wetherington, J. D. & Large, H. L. The Relationship between

746   Interbrood Interval and Yolk Loading in a Generalized Poeciliid Fish, *Poecilia latipinna.*

747   *Copeia* 1986, 295–304 (1986).

748 **Supplementary Table 2** Normal and adjusted repeatabilities (accounting for female
749 size and age, onset, and mother ID) for test fish and male/tank ID (N (brood size) =
750 152 broods, N (offspring size = 144 broods).

Response	Method to assign male/tank ID	Normal repeatability [CI]		Adjusted repeatability [CI]	
		Female ID	Male/tank ID	Female ID	Male/tank ID
Offspring size [mm]	No male/tank ID	0.396 [0.308, 0.484]	-	0.134 [0.085, 0.192]	-
	Exact ID	0.379 [0.279, 0.473]	0.068 [0.042, 0.110]	0.115 [0.073, 0.170]	0.131 [0.086, 0.187]
	First ID	0.405 [0.307, 0.499]	0.039 [0.025, 0.062]	0.117 [0.074, 0.174]	0.109 [0.073, 0.158]
	Last ID	0.338 [0.243, 0.431]	0.126 [0.085, 0.178]	0.126 [0.082, 0.181]	0.143 [0.098, 0.198]
Brood size	No male/tank ID	0.177 [0.117, 0.238]	-	0.077 [0.050, 0.114]	-
	Exact ID	0.212 [0.141, 0.289]	0.000 [0.000, 0.000]	0.085 [0.052, 0.124]	0.000 [0.000, 0.000]
	First ID	0.198 [0.126, 0.275]	0.015 [0.009, 0.023]	0.087 [0.053, 0.126]	0.000 [0.000, 0.000]
	Last ID	0.210 [0.135, 0.297]	0.000 [0.000, 0.000]	0.084 [0.053, 0.127]	0.000 [0.000, 0.000]

752   **Supplementary Table 3** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
753   for an offspring size vs. brood size trade-off, controlling for both the test fish ID and
754   male/tank ID.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	5.151	4.333 – 5.968	-	4.540	3.906 – 5.173	-
	Brood size	-0.012	-0.018 – -0.006	<0.001	-0.013	-0.018 – -0.007	<0.001
	Onset [days]	-0.003	-0.007 – 0.001	0.209	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	0.921	0.739 – 1.104	<0.001	0.970	0.813 – 1.128	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	0.026	-0.202 – 0.254	0.078	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.193	-0.364 – -0.022		-	-	-
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.08			0.08		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Male/tank ID			0.01 Male/tank ID		
		0.01 Test fish ID			0.01 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.22			0.24		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
		45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.583 / 0.675			0.539 / 0.651		

756 **Supplementary Table 4** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
757 if early-life behavior (activity, feeding) predicts reproduction (brood size, offspring
758 size, onset), controlling for both test fish ID and male/tank ID.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Brood size	Intercept	-15.03	-35.58 – 5.53	-	-19.90	-39.82 – 0.03	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-2.32	-4.88 – 0.25	0.082	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	-0.07	-0.21 – 0.07	0.312	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	8.00	3.31 – 12.70	0.001	7.82	3.16 – 12.48	0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	6.11	0.05 – 12.17	<0.001	4.32	-1.61 – 10.26	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	10.21	5.71 – 14.71		8.44	4.35 – 12.53	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	70.72			70.53		
	τ_{00}	0.00 Male/tank ID			0.00 Male/tank ID		
		7.54 Test fish ID			10.07 Test fish ID		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
		45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID		
	Observations	152			152		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.174 / NA			0.155 / NA		
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	5.176	4.379 – 5.974	-	5.162	4.397 – 5.927	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-0.039	-0.141 – 0.064	0.459	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	0.002	-0.004 – 0.007	0.537	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	0.787	0.607 – 0.967	<0.001	0.799	0.621 – 0.978	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.037	-0.284 – 0.209	0.024	-0.086	-0.321 – 0.148	0.014
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.264	-0.453 – -0.076		-0.265	-0.437 – -0.094	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.09			0.09		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Male/tank ID			0.01 Male/tank ID		
		0.01 Test fish ID			0.02 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.20			0.22		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
		45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.550 / 0.638			0.539 / 0.642		

760 **Supplementary Table 5** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
761 if von Bertalanffy growth parameters (the growth rate K and maximum predicted
762 size L_{inf}) predict reproduction (brood size, offspring size, onset of reproduction),
763 controlling for both test fish ID and male/tank ID.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	*CI*	*P-value*	*Estimate*	*CI*	*P-value*
	Intercept	43.170	-71.776 – 158.117	-	7.187	1.216 – 13.158	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	-4.576	-23.303 – 14.152	0.630	-	-	-
	K	-173.701	-530.521 – 183.119	0.337	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.205	0.015 – 0.394	0.036	0.215	0.026 – 0.404	0.027
	Mother ID [m2]	5.630	-0.430 – 11.690	0.113	5.085	-0.828 – 10.999	0.011
	Mother ID [m3]	3.808	-4.004 – 11.620		5.875	2.167 – 9.583	
	Random effects						
	σ^2		73.73			73.90	
	τ_{00}		0.00 Male/tank ID			0.00 Male/tank ID	
			8.36 Test fish ID			9.32 Test fish ID	
Brood size	N		34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID	
			45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID	
	Observations		152			152	
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2		0.132 / NA			0.117 / NA	
	Intercept	5.730	1.557 – 9.903	-	4.895	3.475 – 6.315	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	0.472	-0.206 – 1.149	0.175	0.600	0.297 – 0.904	<0.001
	K	-2.777	-15.764 – 10.210	0.674	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.029	0.022 – 0.037	<0.001	0.029	0.022 – 0.037	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.067	-0.288 – 0.154	0.033	-0.079	-0.292 – 0.134	0.002
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.383	-0.668 – -0.098		-0.333	-0.495 – -0.170	
	Random effects						
	σ^2		0.10			0.10	
	τ_{00}		0.00 Male/tank ID			0.00 Male/tank ID	
			0.01 Test fish ID			0.01 Test fish ID	
Offspring size [mm]	ICC		0.11			0.12	
	N		34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID	
			45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID	
	Observations		144			144	
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2		0.580 / 0.628			0.578 / 0.628	

765 **Supplementary Table 6** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
766 if size on the first day of life predicts reproductive output, controlling for both test
767 fish ID and presumed male/tank ID.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	*CI*	*P-value*	*Estimate*	*CI*	*P-value*
Brood size	Intercept	-1.708	-18.717 – 15.301	-	7.187	1.216 – 13.158	-
	Size at birth [cm]	10.904	-8.549 – 30.357	0.274	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.208	0.019 – 0.398	0.032	0.215	0.026 – 0.404	0.027
	Mother ID [m2]	4.675	-1.168 – 10.518	0.087	5.085	-0.828 – 10.999	0.011
	Mother ID [m3]	4.561	0.254 – 8.869		5.875	2.167 – 9.583	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	74.06			73.90		
	τ_{00}	0.00 Male/tank ID			0.00 Male/tank ID		
		8.19 Test fish ID			9.32 Test fish ID		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
		45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID		
	Observations	152			152		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.127 / NA			0.117 / NA		
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	8.076	7.360 – 8.791	-	7.682	7.446 – 7.918	-
	Size at birth [cm]	-0.484	-1.313 – 0.345	0.255	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.031	0.024 – 0.038	<0.001	0.031	0.024 – 0.038	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	0.007	-0.242 – 0.255	<0.001	-0.016	-0.267 – 0.235	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.450	-0.644 – -0.257		-0.509	-0.677 – -0.340	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.09			0.09		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Male/tank ID			0.01 Male/tank ID		
		0.02 Test fish ID			0.02 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.26			0.27		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
		45 Male/tank ID			45 Male/tank ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.527 / 0.651			0.520 / 0.648		

769 Supplementary Note 4: Model output main analyses

771 **Supplementary Table 7** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
772 if early-life feeding behavior and activity are correlated.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Feeding [min]	Intercept	55.554	48.433 – 62.675	-	60.734	55.675 – 65.792	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-9.222	-10.644 – -7.800	<0.001	-9.134	-10.550 – -7.719	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	3.103	-11.814 – 18.020	0.088	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m3]	10.495	0.907 – 20.084		-	-	-
	Random effects						
	σ^2	721.68			721.69		
	τ_{00}	150.82 Test fish ID			165.52 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.17			0.19		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	931			931		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.174 / 0.317			0.164 / 0.320		

775 **Supplementary Table 8** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing

776 for an offspring size vs. brood size trade-off.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	*CI*	*P-value*	*Estimate*	*CI*	*P-value*
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	5.083	4.238 – 5.927	-	4.466	3.827 – 5.104	-
	Brood size	-0.011	-0.018 – -0.005	<0.001	-0.013	-0.018 – -0.007	<0.001
	Onset [days]	-0.002	-0.006 – 0.002	0.335	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	0.919	0.730 – 1.108	<0.001	0.988	0.830 – 1.146	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.038	-0.273 – 0.196	0.061	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.197	-0.359 – -0.035		-	-	-
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.10			0.10		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Test fish ID			0.01 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.10			0.13		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.580 / 0.623			0.545 / 0.602		

778 **Supplementary Table 9** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models testing
779 if early-life behavior (activity, feeding) predicts reproduction (brood size, offspring
780 size, onset).

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Brood size	Intercept	-15.029	-35.583 – 5.524	-	-19898	-39.823 – 0.027	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-2.317	-4.881 – 0.248	0.082	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	-0.071	-0.207 – 0.066	0.312	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	8.002	3.307 – 12.697	0.001	7820	3.157 – 12.484	0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	6.108	0.048 – 12.169	<0.001	4324	-1.608 – 10.256	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	10.208	5.706 – 14.710		8444	4.353 – 12.535	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	70.72			70.53		
	τ_{00}	7.54 Test fish ID			10.07 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.10			0.12		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	152			152		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.160 / 0.241			0.138 / 0.246		
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	5.168	4.359 – 5.978	-	5.147	4.366 – 5.928	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-0.047	-0.149 – 0.056	0.369	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	0.002	-0.004 – 0.007	0.513	-	-	-
	Size at parturition [cm]	0.791	0.607 – 0.975	<0.001	0.804	0.622 – 0.987	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.058	-0.305 – 0.190	0.018	-0.119	-0.356 – 0.118	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.265	-0.446 – -0.084		-0.270	-0.434 – -0.107	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.10			0.10		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Test fish ID			0.02 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.12			0.14		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.552 / 0.607			0.539 / 0.605		
Onset of reproduction [days]	Intercept	126.473	94.420 – 158.526	-	133.786	123.545 – 144.027	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	4.000	-6.139 – 14.138	0.426	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	0.072	-0.458 – 0.602	0.784	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m2]	15.777	-9.037 – 40.590	0.004	19.964	-1.760 – 41.689	0.002
	Mother ID [m3]	-19.908	-35.944 – -3.872		-17.411	-31.434 – -3.387	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.341 / 0.250			0.326 / 0.282		

781 **Supplementary Table 10** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models
782 testing for an effect of early-life behavior on the maximum predicted size (L_{inf}) and
783 growth rate (K) of individuals.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	*CI*	*P-value*	*Estimate*	*CI*	*P-value*
L_{inf} [cm]	Intercept	4.465	4.159 – 4.771	-	4.375	4.141 – 4.608	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	-0.045	-0.141 – 0.052	0.354	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	0.006	0.001 – 0.011	0.015	0.007	0.003 – 0.012	0.002
	Mother ID [m2]	0.144	-0.093 – 0.380	<0.001	0.098	-0.116 – 0.313	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.349	-0.502 – -0.196		-0.378	-0.517 – -0.239	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.592 / 0.535			0.579 / 0.537		
K	Intercept	0.296	0.247 – 0.344	-	0.305	0.263 – 0.346	-
	Activity [cm/sec]	0.001	-0.001 – 0.004	0.326	-	-	-
	Feeding [min]	0.000	-0.000 – 0.000	0.963	-	-	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	-0.046	-0.056 – -0.035	<0.001	-0.047	-0.056 – -0.039	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	0.004	-0.003 – 0.010	<0.001	0.005	-0.001 – 0.011	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.019	-0.024 – -0.013		-0.018	-0.023 – -0.014	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2/ R^2 adjusted	0.814 / 0.781			0.807 / 0.788		

785 **Supplementary Table 11** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models
786 testing if von Bertalanffy growth parameters (the growth rate K and maximum
787 predicted size L_{inf}) predict reproduction (brood size, offspring size, onset of
788 reproduction).

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Brood size	Intercept	43.171	-71.768 – 158.110	-	7.187	1.217 – 13.157	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	-4.576	-23.302 – 14.151	0.630	-	-	-
	K	-173.702	-530.501 – 183.096	0.338	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.205	0.015 – 0.394	0.035	0.215	0.026 – 0.404	0.026
	Mother ID [m2]	5.630	-0.429 – 11.690	0.111	5.085	-0.828 – 10.999	0.011
	Mother ID [m3]	3.808	-4.004 – 11.620		5.875	2.167 – 9.583	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	73.73			73.90		
	τ_{00}	8.36 Test fish ID			9.32 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.10			0.11		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	152			152		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.120 / 0.210			0.105 / 0.206		
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	5.739	1.240 – 10.239	-	4.808	3.310 – 6.307	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	0.475	-0.257 – 1.206	0.170	0.619	0.299 – 0.939	<0.001
	K	-3.076	-17.062 – 10.909	0.638	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.029	0.022 – 0.037	<0.001	0.030	0.022 – 0.037	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.081	-0.318 – 0.155	0.026	-0.096	-0.320 – 0.128	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.385	-0.689 – -0.080		-0.329	-0.497 – -0.162	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.10			0.10		
	τ_{00}	0.01 Test fish ID			0.01 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.12			0.11		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.568 / 0.618			0.570 / 0.616		
Onset of reproduction [days]	Intercept	-141.259	-595.812 – 313.294	-	-204.285	-383.856 – -24.714	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	45.090	-29.090 – 119.270	0.224	55.537	25.189 – 85.886	0.001
	K	768.659	-631.930 – 2169.249	0.271	980.383	235.137 – 1725.629	0.012
	Mother ID [m2]	15.631	-7.523 – 38.785	0.393	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.368	-31.794 – 31.058		-	-	-
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.360 / 0.271			0.317 / 0.273		

Supplementary Note 5: Effect of female size on reproductive output

**Supplementary Figure 2: Effects of female size at parturition on reproductive
output.** Female size at parturition (predicted from individual von Bertalanffy growth
curves) is positively correlated with (a) offspring size (shown is mean offspring size
(points) per brood ± SD (error bars), N = 2522 offspring from 144 broods) and (b)
brood size (N = 152 broods). (a-b) Data points are colored by individuals, regression
lines (black) with 95% confidence intervals (grey shadow) were estimated via linear
mixed-effects models (**Supplementary Table 9**).

Supplementary Note 6: No effects of size at birth on behavior,

reproduction, and growth

Supplementary Table 12 Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models
testing if size on the first day of life predicts early-life behavior.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Activity [cm/sec]	Intercept	1.546	-1.112 – 4.204	-	0.996	0.577 – 1.416	-
	Size at birth [cm]	-0.656	-3.786 – 2.475	0.672	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m2]	1.210	0.301 – 2.118	0.025	1.188	0.298 – 2.077	0.025
	Mother ID [m3]	0.595	-0.079 – 1.269		0.524	-0.050 – 1.098	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.218 / 0.139			0.213 / 0.162		
Feeding [min]	(Intercept)	10.888	-38.316 – 60.093	-	48.058	42.847 – 53.268	-
	Size at birth [cm]	42.305	-15.642 – 100.252	0.146	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m2]	-9.241	-26.064 – 7.581	0.454	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m3]	1.021	-11.450 – 13.493		-	-	-
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.151 / 0.066			0.000 / 0.000		

807 **Supplementary Table 13** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models
808 testing if size on the first day of life predicts reproductive output.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
Brood size	(Intercept)	-1.708	-18.716 – 15.300	-	7.187	1.217 – 13.157	-
	Size at birth [cm]	10.904	-8.548 – 30.356	0.270	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.208	0.019 – 0.398	0.031	0.215	0.026 – 0.404	0.027
	Mother ID [m2]	4.675	-1.168 – 10.518	0.086	5.085	-0.828 – 10.999	0.011
	Mother ID [m3]	4.561	0.254 – 8.868		5.875	2.167 – 9.583	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	74.06			73.90		
	τ_{00}	8.19 Test fish ID			9.32 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.10			0.11		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	152			152		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.116 / 0.204			0.105 / 0.206		
Offspring size [mm]	Intercept	8.036	7.306 – 8.766	-	7.685	7.448 – 7.921	-
	Size at birth [cm]	-0.431	-1.276 – 0.414	0.315	-	-	-
	Age at parturition [weeks]	0.031	0.024 – 0.038	<0.001	0.031	0.024 – 0.038	<0.001
	Mother ID [m2]	-0.035	-0.288 – 0.218	<0.001	-0.053	-0.307 – 0.201	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.462	-0.649 – -0.276		-0.514	-0.674 – -0.353	
	Random effects						
	σ^2	0.10			0.10		
	τ_{00}	0.02 Test fish ID			0.02 Test fish ID		
	ICC	0.18			0.19		
	N	34 Test fish ID			34 Test fish ID		
	Observations	144			144		
	Marginal R^2 / Conditional R^2	0.525 / 0.612			0.519 / 0.612		

810 **Supplementary Table 14** Full (left) and final (right) linear mixed-effect models
811 testing if size on the first day of life predicts the growth rate K and predicted final
812 size L_{inf}.

Response	Predictor	Full model			Final model		
		Estimate	CI	P-value	Estimate	CI	P-value
L_{inf} [cm]	Intercept	4.171	3.473 – 4.870	-	4.716	4.602 – 4.831	-
	Size at birth [cm]	0.650	-0.172 – 1.473	0.117	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m2]	0.019	-0.220 – 0.258	<0.001	0.041	-0.202 – 0.284	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.407	-0.584 – -0.230		-0.337	-0.493 – -0.180	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.472 / 0.419			0.426 / 0.389		
K	Intercept	0.309	0.268 – 0.350	-	0.305	0.263 – 0.346	-
	L_{inf} [cm]	-0.045	-0.054 – -0.036	<0.001	-0.047	-0.056 – -0.039	<0.001
	Size at birth [cm]	-0.017	-0.037 – 0.004	0.107	-	-	-
	Mother ID [m2]	0.006	-0.000 – 0.011	<0.001	0.005	-0.001 – 0.011	<0.001
	Mother ID [m3]	-0.016	-0.021 – -0.010		-0.018	-0.023 – -0.014	
	Observations	34			34		
	R^2 / R^2 adjusted	0.824 / 0.799			0.807 / 0.788		