

1 **Behavioural Trait Assortment in a Social Network: Patterns and Implications**

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4 Darren P. Croft *1,2\**, Jens Krause *3*, Safi K. Darden*1,2*, Indar W. Ramnarine *4*, Jolyon J.  
5 Faria *3* & Richard James *5*.

6

7 *1* School of Biological Sciences, College of Natural Sciences. Bangor University, Bangor

8 *2* Centre for Research in Animal Behaviour, School of Psychology, University of Exeter,

9 Exeter *3* Institute of Integrative and Comparative Biology, University of Leeds, Leeds *4*

10 Department of Life Sciences. The University of the West Indies St. Augustine, Trinidad

11 & Tobago. *5* Department of Physics, University of Bath, Bath.

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14 \*To whom correspondence should be addressed. E-mail: darren\_croft@hotmail.com, Tel:

15 0044 (0) 1392 264626, Fax: 0044 (0) 1392 264623

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23

24 **Abstract**

25 The social fine structure of a population plays a central role in ecological and  
26 evolutionary processes. Whilst many studies have investigated how morphological traits  
27 such as size affect social structure of populations, comparatively little is known about the  
28 influence of behaviours such as boldness and shyness. Using information on social  
29 interactions in a wild population of Trinidadian guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*) we construct  
30 a social network. For each individual in the network we quantify its behavioural  
31 phenotype using two measures of boldness, predator inspection tendency, a repeatable  
32 and reliably measured behaviour well studied in the context of co-operation, and shoaling  
33 tendency. We observe striking heterogeneity in contact patterns, with strong ties being  
34 positively assorted, and weak ties negatively assorted by our measured behavioural traits.  
35 Moreover, shy fish had more network connections than bold fish and these were on  
36 average stronger. In other words, social fine-structure is strongly influenced by  
37 behavioural trait. We assert that such structure will have implications for the outcome of  
38 selection on behavioural traits and we speculate that the observed positive assortment  
39 may act as an amplifier of selection contributing to the maintenance of co-operation  
40 during predator inspection.

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42

43 **Introduction**

44 Social interactions rarely occur at random and individuals are often interconnected in a  
45 complex heterogeneous social network in which individuals differ in the number and  
46 strength of interactions they have (Croft et al. 2008). The structure of a social network  
47 will influence an individual's access to resources and information (Krause *et al.* 2007;  
48 Wey *et al.* 2008), which will in turn set the stage for many key behaviours including  
49 finding and choosing a sexual partner, developing and maintaining cooperative  
50 relationships, foraging and avoiding predators (Wilson 1975; Krause et al. 2007).  
51 Moreover, many important ecological processes are likely to be influenced by social  
52 network structure (Krause et al. 2007; Wey et al. 2008). Even so, comparatively little is  
53 known about factors that influence social network structure or the implications of social  
54 network structure for evolution.

55

56       There are many factors contributing to non-random social associations among  
57 individuals. For example, group-level assortment by phenotypic attributes such as  
58 species, body size and sex is well-documented in many taxa and has been attributed to a  
59 number of adaptive benefits including reduced predation risk and increased foraging  
60 efficiency (Krause and Ruxton 2002). These traits, often morphological, are known to  
61 affect social fine structure as it is revealed in social networks of wild populations (Croft  
62 *et al.* 2005). By comparison, the behavioural phenotype of individuals is largely  
63 neglected in this context (but see Pike *et al.* 2008 for a laboratory-based exception). It has  
64 long been recognized that animals exhibit consistent patterns of individual behaviour  
65 (Huntingford 1976; Magurran 1993; Wilson 1998; Gosling 2001), referred to as

66 personalities, temperaments or behavioural types (Sih et al. 2004; Reale et al. 2007).  
67 Perhaps the best studied example is variation along the bold-shy axis. Bolder individuals  
68 can generally be characterized as exhibiting more risk-prone behaviours across a range of  
69 contexts including approaching novel objects, consuming novel food items, inspecting  
70 predators, and spending more time in open habitats (see Reale et al. 2007 for a review).  
71 Behavioural phenotypes often influence sociality (Roberts et al. 2008) so they should be  
72 expected to influence who interacts with whom within a social network. Pike et al. (2008)  
73 found that shy three-spined sticklebacks (*Gasterosteus aculeatus*) associated  
74 preferentially with a small number of other group members whereas bold individuals had  
75 fewer overall interactions than shy fish, and distributed their interactions more evenly  
76 across all group members. The interaction between such behavioural traits and social  
77 network structure in wild animal populations remains unknown.

78

79         The structure of social networks is likely to have important implications for the  
80 strength and direction of selection on behavioural traits. Many behavioural traits are  
81 subject to frequency dependent selection, in which the fitness of an individual will  
82 depend in part on its social environment (i.e. an individual's interactions with others and  
83 their accompanying behavioural types). For example, in models of conflict, the success of  
84 a hawk (aggressive) or dove (yielding) strategy will be dependent on the frequency of  
85 hawks and doves in an individual's local interaction network (Maynard Smith 1982).  
86 Non-random interactions between individuals based on behavioural traits can  
87 dramatically influence selection and in some cases may act as an amplifier of selection on

88 those traits (Ohtsuki *et al.* 2006). Thus quantifying the relationship between social  
89 structure and behavioural traits may help us understand how selection acts on these traits.  
90  
91 In the present study we investigate whether there is evidence of social structuring by  
92 behavioural phenotype in a wild population of guppies (*Poecilia reticulata*). Field  
93 observations of social associations over a 10-day period were used to build a social  
94 network and network analysis was used to characterise the social fine structure of our  
95 population. A network is simply a graph consisting of nodes connected by edges (lines).  
96 In the current investigation nodes represent individual animals and the edges the  
97 relationships between them are based on social associations. We represent the intensity of  
98 such interactions by giving each edge a weight proportional to the frequency of observed  
99 association. Compared to more traditional approaches that focus on dyadic interactions  
100 between animals in isolation, the network approach allows us to put such interactions into  
101 the wider social context of the population (Krause *et al.* 2009). For every fish in the  
102 population we quantify its predator inspection and shoaling tendency via standard  
103 laboratory tests and use this to assign it a behavioural score (BS). Predator inspection is  
104 indeed a consistent behavioural trait that can be reliably measured and differs between  
105 individuals (Budaev 1997). It is also a behaviour that has been studied in depth in the  
106 context of cooperation (Milinski 1987; Dugatkin 1988; Croft *et al.* 2006a). Individuals  
107 leave the relative safety of a group to approach and inspect a predator, gaining  
108 information on the predator's state and on the probability of attack (Pitcher *et al.* 1986).  
109 This information is transmitted to non inspecting individuals, providing fitness benefits to  
110 all group members (Magurran and Higham 1988; Godin and Davis 1995). Inspectors pay

111 a personal cost of increased risk of predation (Dugatkin 1992; Milinski et al. 1997),  
112 which they can reduce by inspecting in cooperative partnerships (Milinski 1987;  
113 Dugatkin 1988; Croft et al. 2006a). Theoretical work suggests that the benefits to  
114 inspectors will be maximised when there is social assortment based on predator  
115 inspection behaviour (Wilson and Dugatkin 1997). We look for evidence of such  
116 assortment by behavioural strategy in our social network.

117

## 118 **Materials and Methods:**

### 119 ***Study Population:***

120 Adult guppies were captured from a 35m section of the Arima River (10°41'N,  
121 61°17'W) in the Northern Mountain Range of Trinidad in May 2006. Guppies here are  
122 under high risk of predation due to the presence of major piscivorous predators, including  
123 the pike cichlid, *Crenicichla sp.* The fish were caught in two interconnected pools  
124 between which they could move freely. During fish sampling entire shoals (defined as  
125 two or more fish observed within four body lengths) were captured from each of the  
126 pools using a 2-m seine (Croft *et al.* 2004). After capture, shoals were housed  
127 individually in sealable 2 L plastic storage bags. All adult guppies were brought to the  
128 laboratory to be screened for behavioural traits. Fish were housed in two aquaria, one for  
129 fish captured from each pool (1 x h x w = 76 x 46 x 46cm, water depth = 35cm) that had  
130 natural substrate collected from the river. Guppies were anaesthetized (MS-222 Sigma  
131 Chemical) and given individual identity marks by injecting different colours of visible  
132 implant elastomer (VIE) in two of six positions on the dorsal area (Croft et al. 2003a).

133 The identification mark does not have an effect on shoal choice behaviour (Croft *et al.*  
134 2004). The sex and total length of each fish were recorded at the time of marking.

135

136 ***Behavioural Screening:***

137 After marking, the fish were left to acclimatise in the holding tanks for a period of  
138 24 to 48 h, before behavioural screening. When an individual inspects a predator it is  
139 trading off a tendency to seek refuge in a social group and a willingness to undertake  
140 risky behaviour. Shy fish might also be expected to seek refuge in a shoal more than bold  
141 fish, so to examine the robustness of behavioural differences between individuals we also  
142 tested an individual's preference to be with conspecifics. Behavioural screening was  
143 carried out in a test tank (90cm x 30cm x 30cm; water depth 15cm) made up of three  
144 compartments ("release", "shoaling" and "predator inspection" respectively) each 30cm x  
145 30cm x 30cm, that could be isolated using two opaque barriers. Observations were made  
146 directly by an observer who was located in front of the tank and manipulated the opaque  
147 barriers using a remote pulley mechanism. At the start of each trial both barriers were in  
148 the down position isolating the three compartments. Initially the test fish was placed  
149 alone in the release compartment (at one end of the tank). After a 10-minute period the  
150 opaque barrier separating the release compartment and the shoaling compartment (the  
151 central compartment) was raised using a remote pulley mechanism allowing the test fish  
152 access to the shoaling compartment. The shoaling compartment contained a stimulus  
153 shoal made up of two large (>25mm) and two small (<20mm) female guppies. The  
154 stimulus shoal was contained within a cylindrical container (diameter=10cm) in the  
155 centre of the compartment that allowed the transmission of visual, but not olfactory, cues.

156 The stimulus fish were most likely unfamiliar to the focal fish as they were caught from  
157 another section of the Arima River that was more than 500m from the site of the test fish  
158 capture. The amount of time that focal fish spent associating with the stimulus shoal  
159 (defined as being within 5cm) was recorded over a 10-minute period. Then the second  
160 partition was raised allowing the fish access to the predator compartment. The predator  
161 compartment contained a model fish predator (a fishing lure) located in the rear corner  
162 and faced towards the shoaling compartment. The number of approaches within a  
163 standardised length of 15cm of the predator was recorded over a 10-minute period. Each  
164 fish was screened for shoaling and predator inspection behaviour twice on consecutive  
165 days. When not undergoing testing the fish were housed in their original holding tank  
166 (see above).

167

168 ***Building the Social Network:***

169 After screening, all individuals (N=72) were simultaneously released into the  
170 centre of their original pool in the Arima River. This occurred approximately 144 h after  
171 capture. Re-sampling of the population began 24 h after release and was undertaken once  
172 per day between 10:00 and 14:00 h for 9 consecutive days. Entire shoals were captured  
173 from the pools using a 2-m seine as in the initial capture of the study population. The  
174 depth of water at the location of capture was recorded for each shoal. Shoals were kept in  
175 individual sealable 2 L plastic storage bags, and released back to their capture location  
176 after the composition of all shoals had been recorded. Individuals were recaptured on  
177 average ( $\pm$ SD)  $4.7 \pm 2.5$  times.

178



179 For each sampling day (day 0 to 9) fish were defined as associating if they were  
180 observed in the same shoal. These associations were then accumulated over the 10  
181 sampling days. From this data we calculated the strength of association between each pair  
182 of animals using an association index. As we have no reason to believe there was a  
183 sampling bias in seeing animals together or apart, we used the simple-ratio index (SRI)  
184 (Cairns and Schwager 1987).

185

186 
$$SRI = \frac{X}{X + Y_{ab} + Y_a + Y_b}.$$

187

188 Where  $X$  is the number of times a pair of animals ( $a$  and  $b$ ) were observed in the same  
189 group,  $Y_a$  is the number of times  $a$  was observed in a group but not  $b$ ,  $Y_b$  is the number of  
190 times  $b$  was observed in a group but not  $a$  and  $Y_{ab}$  is the number of times both animals  
191 were observed in different groups. The  $SRI$  gives indices that are scaled between 0 and 1  
192 with a value of 1 indicated that the pair was always observed together and a value of 0 if  
193 the pair never associated.

194

195 Guppies have a dynamic fission fusion social system in which there can be a rapid  
196 change of shoal membership. Shoals sampled at one point in time may therefore contain  
197 some pairs of animals that are frequently found together, and others that are rarely  
198 together. The edges of the network are weighted by the strength of association ( $SRI$ )  
199 between pairs of animals, so by constructing a series of networks filtered to include only  
200 the stronger or the weaker associations we are able to explore the interplay between

201 social fine structure and behavioural trait at different levels of social association. Eight  
202 networks were considered: four (S1-S4) were used to analyse increasingly strong social  
203 ties; these were filtered to include only pairs of animals with  $SRI \geq 0.1$ , 0.2, 0.3 and 0.4  
204 respectively. To study the structure of weak ties, the same thresholds were used, but as a  
205 maximum, to produce networks W1-W4. So in W2, for example, pairs are only joined if  
206 their  $SRI$  is  $> 0$  and  $\leq 0.2$ . For each network we calculated the mean degree (defined as  
207 the average number of associations individuals have in the network) as a measure of  
208 social differentiation. To quantify assortment by behavioural score in our filtered  
209 networks, we correlated an individual's behavioural score with the average behavioural  
210 score of its network neighbours (Newman 2003). The distribution of group sizes and  
211 recapture frequencies are known to have an effect on network structure (James et al.  
212 2009), so all measured network values were compared to the results of a Monte Carlo test  
213 in which these variables were preserved (Croft et al. 2008). Furthermore, whilst all fish  
214 within a pool on a given day have the opportunity to interact socially it is unrealistic to  
215 assume that individuals in different pools have the same opportunity. For this reason we  
216 further constrained the randomisation test to randomise shoal structure for fish captured  
217 within a pool on a given day. A similar test was used to look for shoal-level assortment.  
218 In this case the test statistic is the coefficient of variation (CV) in phenotype within each  
219 shoal, averaged over all shoals.

220

## 221 **Results**

### 222 *Quantifying Behavioural Traits:*

223 Both of behavioural measures showed significant repeatability between the two testing  
224 days (Spearman rank correlation, inspection,  $n=72$   $r=0.24$ ,  $P=0.05$  and shoaling  $N=72$ ,  
225  $r=0.23$ ,  $P=0.05$ ). To provide a single measure for each behaviour the average of the two  
226 values were calculated. We found substantial variation among individuals in the number  
227 of predator inspection events during the trials ( $\text{mean} \pm (\text{SD}) = 4.19 \pm 3.07$ ) and in the time  
228 they spent shoaling ( $\text{mean} (\pm \text{SD}) = 351.5 \pm 92.3$  sec). No significant differences were  
229 observed between the sexes in either inspection tendency or shoaling tendency (ANOVA;  
230 inspection:  $F_{1,71} = 1.26$ ,  $P = 0.26$ ; shoaling:  $F_{1,71} = 0.01$ ,  $P = 0.91$ ) and no relationship was  
231 observed with either measure and body length, a morphological variable known to  
232 explain many aspects of shoal composition in this species (Croft *et al.* 2005) (Spearman  
233 rank correlation, inspection,  $n=72$ ,  $r=-0.080$ ,  $P=0.50$ ; shoaling:  $n=72$ ,  $r=-0.013$ ,  $P=0.91$ ).

234

235 There was a significant negative correlation between the time an individual spent  
236 shoaling and its propensity to inspect a predator (Spearman rank correlation  $n=72$ ,  $r=-$   
237  $0.502$ ,  $P < 0.0001$ ). To provide a behavioural profile for each individual we combined the  
238 two scores using principal component analysis to produce its 'behavioural score' (BS) in  
239 which the bolder fish (i.e. individuals with high inspection and low shoaling) have larger  
240 values. The first principal component explained 76 % of the variance with both shoaling  
241 tendency and inspection tendency loading on the component with a value of 0.872. No  
242 significant relationship was observed between BS and average water depth (Spearman  
243 rank correlation  $n=72$ ,  $r=-0.19$ ,  $P=0.115$ )

244

245 ***Quantifying Social Network Structure:***

246           The average ( $\pm$ SD) SRI index between network dyads was  $0.177\pm 0.083$ . Nine  
247 animals were seen only once, and were removed from the analysis, to avoid bias in the  
248 edge weights. Network S1 is shown in Fig. 1; it includes all observed associations and  
249 interconnects all 63 fish. Its mean degree is relatively high (11.1), with each individual  
250 connected to nearly one fifth of the population. Fig. 2 shows that the mean degree  
251 decreases rapidly as a function of association filter threshold. Thus individuals have many  
252 casual associations but fewer stronger and potentially socially significant associations.  
253 Also shown are the values of mean degree we should expect under a null model of shoal  
254 membership. The mean degree of S1 is lower than expected; S2 and S3 higher (Fig. 2).  
255 S4 contains too few edges to maintain test power. The results for S2 and S3 imply that  
256 shoals are somehow assorted. We tested the shoals observed on the first day of capture  
257 only (to avoid pseudo-replication) and found strong assortment by body length in shoals  
258 ( $n=18$ ,  $CV=8.64$ ,  $P<0.0001$  - see methods). This is a well known result for this species  
259 (Croft *et al.* 2005). More interestingly, we found no evidence of assortment of shoal  
260 membership by our behavioural score ( $n=18$ ,  $CV=31.2$ ,  $P=0.337$ ).

261

262           Despite the lack of group-level assortment, we found significant positive BS  
263 assortment in networks S1-S3, with the observed correlation coefficients exceeding those  
264 from the model and increasing with filtering threshold (Fig. 3a). S4 again contains too  
265 few edges to maintain test power. In addition we found significant negative BS  
266 assortment in the W1 network (in which only edges with  $SRI \leq 0.1$  are included, Fig. 3b).  
267 We also looked for correlations in our S networks by predator inspection alone (as  
268 opposed to a combined inspection and shoaling behavioural score BS), since co-operative

269 predator inspection behaviour in guppies is known to occur between individuals that form  
270 strong social ties (Croft et al. 2006a). The results of this analysis are consistent with the  
271 analysis of the BS, in that there was a non-significant tendency for the observed  
272 assortment to be greater than the expected assortment across all filtering thresholds (see  
273 Fig 3c), this was only significant however for networks S2 and S3 (see Fig 3c).

274

275 We found a non-significant negative correlation between an individual's BS and  
276 network degree (the number of social ties they have), with bolder individuals having a  
277 tendency to form fewer network ties (Spearman rank correlation:  $n=63$ ,  $r=-0.24$ ,  $P=0.058$ ,  
278 see Figure 4a). Removal of one outlying point from the data (Fig. 4a) resulted in a  
279 significant negative correlation ( $n=62$ ,  $r=-0.29$ ,  $P=0.020$ ). We also found a significant  
280 negative correlation between the average association strength an individual has with its  
281 network neighbours and an individual's BS with bolder individuals having on average  
282 weaker network ties (Spearman rank correlation:  $n=62$ ,  $r=-0.35$ ,  $P<0.0001$ ; Fig. 4b).

283

## 284 **Discussion**

285

286 Our results provide the first insight into how social networks are structured by  
287 behavioural traits in a wild population, showing evidence for non-random mixing of  
288 individuals in a social network based on their behavioural traits. We have to keep in mind  
289 that these results are from one social network, making it difficult to generalise about the  
290 observed patterns. Replication is a common problem for ecological studies on this scale  
291 but the patterns we observe are very clear. In particular, we found that the social network

292 was positively assorted by behavioural score (BS) across all ties in the network and  
293 positively assorted by predator inspection tendency across strong network ties. An  
294 individual's BS predicted the number and strength of interactions they had, with high-BS  
295 individuals forming fewer associations that were on average weaker - a finding that  
296 supports previous laboratory work (Pike et al. 2008).

297

298         There are a number of mechanisms that could contribute to the observed  
299 behavioural structuring of the social network by BS. Firstly, individuals with a high BS  
300 are predicted to spend less time shoaling, which we predict will lead to them having  
301 fewer and weaker social interactions. This prediction is supported by our field  
302 observation which strongly suggests that our measured behaviour in the laboratory  
303 reflects the behaviour of individuals under natural conditions. Secondly, it is possible that  
304 the observed positive behavioural assortment could be the by-product of morphological  
305 assortment if behavioural traits are correlated with morphological traits (Külling and  
306 Milinski 1992). The most obvious morphological candidates for this are body size and  
307 sex, but no relationship was observed between size and BS and there was not a significant  
308 difference in BS between the sexes, suggesting that behavioural assortment is not driven  
309 as a by-product of morphological assortment in the current investigation. Thirdly, the  
310 phenotypic distribution of individuals in the habitat may limit the opportunities for social  
311 interactions to occur. A study on the pumpkinseed sunfish (*Lepomis gibbosus*)  
312 documented that individuals of different behavioural types utilise different habitats  
313 (Wilson et al. 1993). In guppies water depth is an important variable influencing the  
314 phenotypic distribution of fish within the habitat, both as a function of body size and of

315 sex (Croft et al. 2003b; Croft et al. 2006b), and it has been demonstrated that a greater  
316 water depth is associated with increased predation risk (Croft et al. 2006b; Darden and  
317 Croft 2008). However, in our study population we did not observe a significant  
318 relationship between the average water depth in which an individual was observed and its  
319 behavioural score so it appears unlikely that habitat segregation based on behavioural  
320 type is a significant factor in the behavioural structuring of the social network. Finally, it  
321 is possible that positive assortment in the network could be driven through passive  
322 mechanisms due to individual variation in social tendencies, leading to repeated  
323 interactions between individuals of a similar behavioural type that are independent of  
324 active partner preferences. Whilst it is easy to see how this mechanism could lead to  
325 positive behavioural assortment, it is not clear how such a mechanism could lead to  
326 negative behavioural assortment as is observed amongst weak ties in the social network.  
327 This latter result is indeed intriguing and leads us to hypothesize that active partner  
328 choice and partner updating may have a significant role to play in generating the patterns  
329 of negative assortment. Further work exploring the mechanisms underpinning these  
330 negatively assorted weak interactions and their functional benefits provides an exciting  
331 avenue for future research. More generally, further work is needed to elucidate the  
332 mechanisms underpinning the patterns of behavioural assortment. Using individual based  
333 models to explore the influence of behavioural type on social network structure and vice  
334 versa, could be a fruitful avenue for future research.

335

336 In addition to the potential passive mechanisms outlined above there may be  
337 benefits that drive positive assortment by BS that lead to individuals actively assorting by

338 behavioural type. For example, if individuals of different behavioural types differ in  
339 activity levels, then individuals may assort to synchronise behaviour and minimise energy  
340 expenditure. Such a mechanism has been proposed to explain phenotypic assortment  
341 based on sex in ungulates where the sexes differ in activity patterns such as foraging and  
342 resting (Conradt 1998; Ruckstuhl 1999). Further work exploring the extent to which  
343 individuals of different behavioural types assort to synchronise behaviour (such as  
344 activity) could be very rewarding. Behavioural assortment may also provide anti-predator  
345 benefits (Szulkin et al. 2006). It is well documented that the anti-predator benefits of  
346 group living increase with phenotypic assortment of social groups and that odd  
347 individuals in a group suffer an increased risk of predation due to the ‘oddity effect’  
348 (Ohguchi 1978; Landeau and Terborgh 1986; Theodorakis 1989). Whilst the oddity effect  
349 has generally been considered in the context of morphological traits such as body size  
350 and coloration (Landeau and Terborgh 1986; Theodorakis 1989), it is possible that  
351 behavioural assortment increases the anti-predator benefits of grouping by decreasing  
352 phenotypic oddity (Szulkin et al. 2006).

353

354         Whilst our work does not directly test the evolutionary implications of the social  
355 network structure, our finding that the guppy social network was positively assorted by  
356 predator inspection behaviour is interesting in the context of selection on this behavioural  
357 trait (Wilson and Dugatkin 1997). Our previous work has demonstrated that pairs of  
358 individuals that form stable social associations are more likely to engage in co-operative  
359 predator inspection behaviour together (Croft et al. 2006a) and the results presented here  
360 demonstrate that they have similar predator inspection tendencies. It has been suggested



361 that behavioural assortment by co-operative behaviour may be important in maintaining  
362 co-operation (Wilson and Dugatkin 1997; Ohtsuki et al. 2006; Santos et al. 2006).  
363 However, evidence of such assortment remains elusive in wild populations. Whilst we  
364 can not directly infer levels of co-operation between individuals in the current  
365 investigation if we speculate that individuals that have similar inspection tendencies are  
366 more likely to engage in co-operative predator inspection behaviour together, then the  
367 observed positive assortment of the social network may contribute to the maintenance of  
368 co-operation in the population (Wilson and Dugatkin 1997; Ohtsuki et al. 2006; Santos et  
369 al. 2006). It has been suggested that in dynamic social systems very simple behavioural  
370 strategies such as ‘walk away when encountering non-co-operation’ (Aktipis 2004) may  
371 lead to repeated interactions between co-operators and promote co-operation (Santos et  
372 al. 2006). In fact, previous laboratory work with guppies (Dugatkin & Alfieri 1991) has  
373 shown that individuals monitor the inspection behaviour of others and prefer to associate  
374 with individuals with a high inspection tendency. Work on both sticklebacks and guppies  
375 in the laboratory suggests that individuals form stronger social associations with whom  
376 they co-operate (Milinski et al. 1990; Croft et al. 2006a), suggesting that the patterns  
377 observed in the current study could be based on active choice. We also see that animals  
378 have fewer ties the stronger the ties are. This is not surprising, but is consistent with  
379 arguments that partner updating decreases the number of ties individuals have, which  
380 may be important in maintaining co-operation (Santos et al. 2006). The possibility that  
381 simple partner updating could at least aid the maintenance of co-operation via assortative  
382 interactions, without the need for advanced cognitive abilities, is certainly intriguing and  
383 we believe it offers an exciting avenue for future research. Furthermore, the work

384 presented here highlights the need for in-situ studies of association patterns, as previous  
385 attempts to explore assortative interactions and partner switching in guppies under  
386 artificial laboratory conditions have produced inconclusive results (Dugatkin and Wilson  
387 2000; Thomas et al. 2008).

388

389         Our work indicates that behavioural traits influence, or perhaps are influenced by,  
390 the social fine-structure of the population and that this structure may influence the  
391 strength and direction of selection on those traits. Designers of future empirical studies  
392 trying to unravel selection pressures on behavioural traits or to resolve the mechanisms  
393 underpinning population social structure should therefore seriously consider recording  
394 social contact patterns. A network analysis allows us to examine structural properties that  
395 are maintained over time, or indeed those that are not, and to probe structure at any level  
396 between the individual and the population. The power of the approach is clearly  
397 illustrated by the fact that assortment by the behavioural trait is only evident in the  
398 network; though shoals of guppies were significantly assorted by body size (a pattern that  
399 is well documented in other studies (Krause et al. 2000)), they were not assorted by  
400 behavioural score. A shoal-level analysis could not have captured this aspect of social  
401 structure (Croft et al. 2003b).

402

403         In conclusion, we report the first evidence of social structure shaped by  
404 behavioural phenotypes in a wild population. Our findings are consistent with  
405 observations of human social network formation in which the personality score of  
406 individuals influences the formation of network ties (Roberts et al. 2008). Our work

407 illustrates the potential of adopting a network approach for understanding how selection  
408 acts on behavioural traits that are subject to frequency-dependent selection in natural  
409 populations. This is an exciting and developing area of research that we believe could  
410 have broad application. More work is needed to look at the mechanisms underpinning the  
411 structure of social networks and the evolutionary consequences of network structure.

412

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414

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538 **Figures**

539

540 **Figure 1)** Network S1, in which all edges with SRI greater than or equal to 0.1 are  
541 included. The size of the node indicates the strength of individual behavioural score,  
542 within larger nodes having a higher inspection tenancy. Sex of individuals is represented  
543 by node colour.

544

545 **Figure 2)** Mean degree of networks S1-S4. Filled circles depict the observed values and  
546 the unfilled circles the median value for 10000 randomisations. 95% two-tailed  
547 confidence intervals are shown as the dashed line around the expected random value  
548 ( $P < 0.01 = **$ ).

549

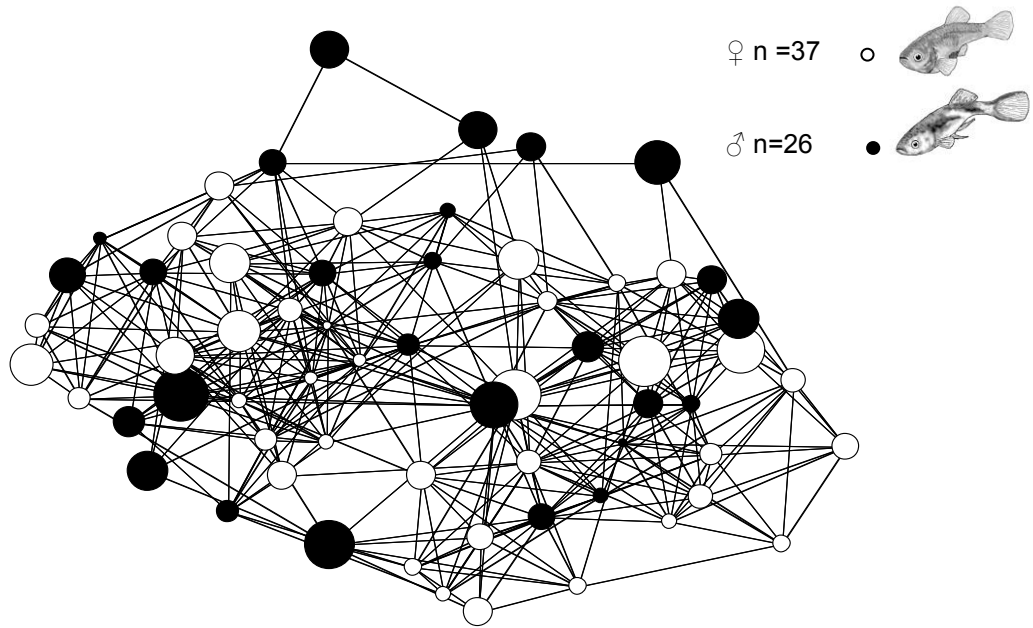
550 **Figure 3)** Assortment by behavioural phenotype in the edge-filtered guppy social  
551 networks a) Shows the analysis based on individuals behavioural scores (BS) in which  
552 only edges with SRI greater than or equal to the threshold are included (S networks S1-  
553 S4). b) Shows the analysis based on individuals behavioural scores (BS) in which only  
554 edges with SRI less than or equal to the threshold are included (W networks W1-W4). c)  
555 Shows the analysis based solely on predator inspection scores in which only edges with  
556 SRI greater than or equal to the threshold are included (S networks S1-S4). Filled circles  
557 depict the observed values of the Spearman rank correlation coefficient and the unfilled  
558 circles the median value for 10000 randomisations. 95% two-tailed confidence intervals  
559 are shown as the dashed line around the expected random value. P values are displayed  
560 on the figures.

561

562 **Figure 4a)** The relationship between an individual's behavioural score and its number of  
563 network neighbours (degree). b) The relationship between an individual's behavioural  
564 score and the average strength of its social associations.

565

566 Figure 1



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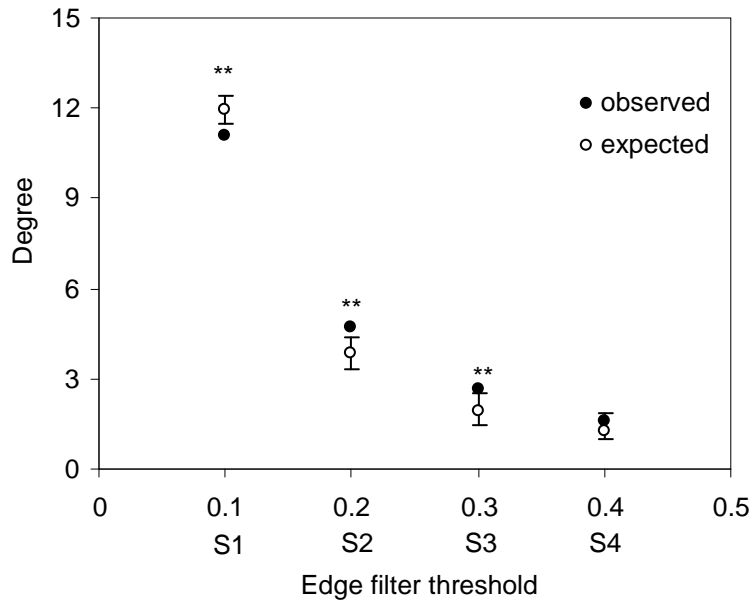
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572 Figure 2

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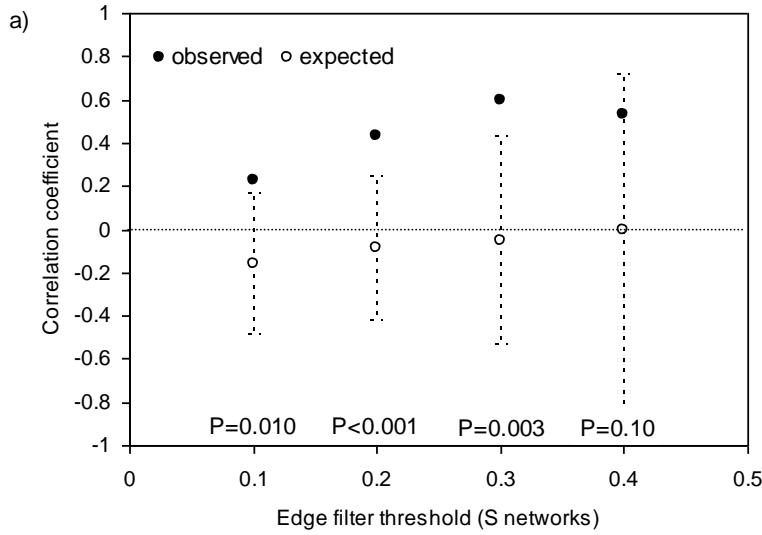
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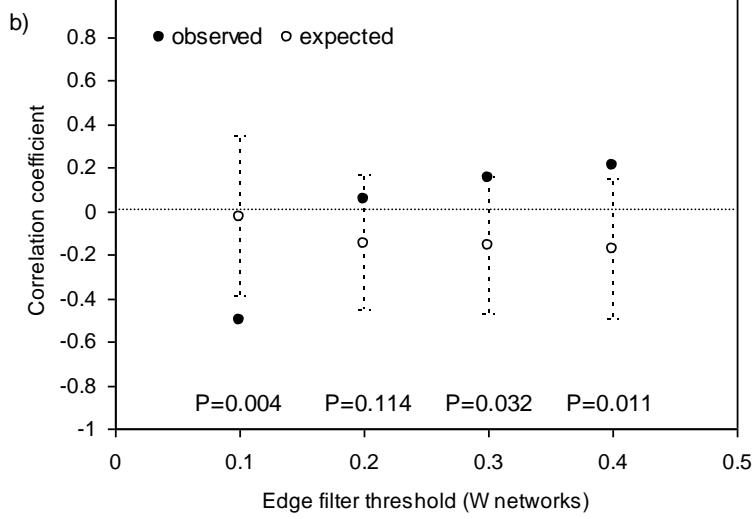
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580 Figure 3

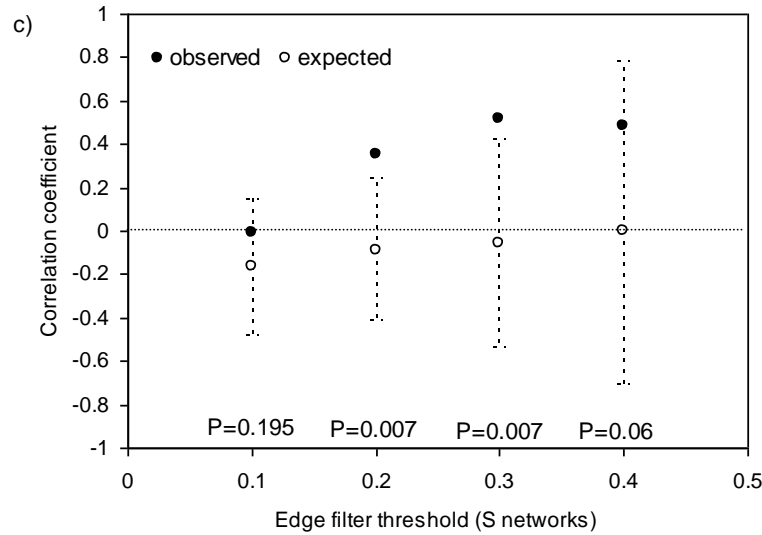
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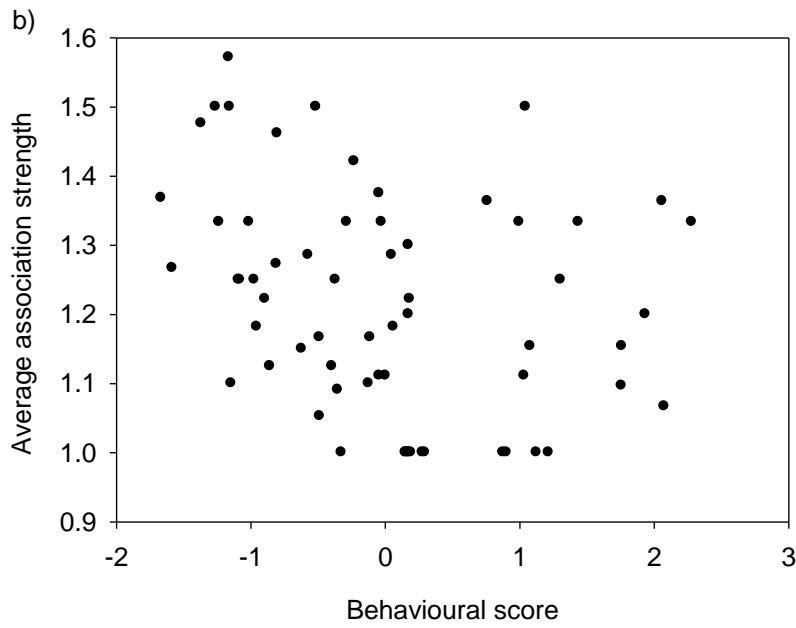
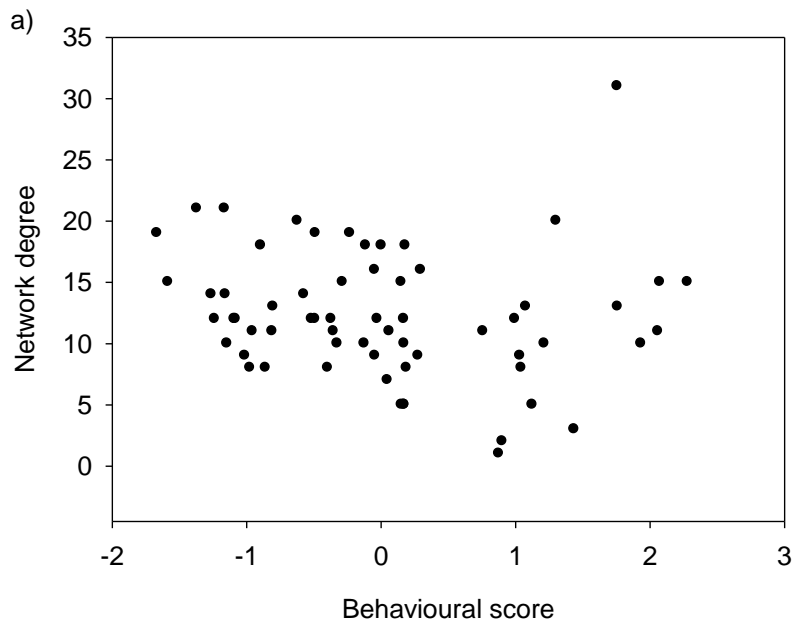
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603 Figure 4



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