



Cover: As a human commensal species, the Eurasian tree sparrow has a wide elevational distribution throughout the Eurasian continent, e.g. from sea level to 5000 m of elevation on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. High-altitude birds are challenged by the hypobaric, hypodense and cold air, but the flight-related performance and underlying aerodynamic constraints have not yet been well identified in comparison with lowland populations of this species. Sun et al. (pp. 3642-3648) show that intraspecific differences in flight-related morphological and functional variables over an ~3000 m elevational range indicate aerodynamic constraints on flight performance in parallel with enhanced heart and lung masses to offset hypoxic challenge. Photo credit: Shiyong Ge and Guanqun Kou.

INSIDE JEB

- 3493** Nepalese porters do it the hard way; Dynamic filter keeps sandfish lungs sand-free; Bees rewarded by instinctive and learned behaviours; Namib day geckos less stable in dim conditions

COMMENTARY

- 3496** A place for host-microbe symbiosis in the comparative physiologist's toolbox
Kohl, K. D. and Carey, H. V.

REVIEW

- 3505** The defensive response of the honeybee *Apis mellifera*
Nouvian, M., Reinhard, J. and Giurfa, M.

RESEARCH ARTICLES

- 3518** Flight mechanics and control of escape manoeuvres in hummingbirds. I. Flight kinematics
Cheng, B., Tobalske, B. W., Powers, D. R., Hedrick, T. L., Wethington, S. M., Chiu, G. T. C. and Deng, X.
- 3532** Flight mechanics and control of escape manoeuvres in hummingbirds. II. Aerodynamic force production, flight control and performance limitations
Cheng, B., Tobalske, B. W., Powers, D. R., Hedrick, T. L., Wang, Y., Wethington, S. M., Chiu, G. T.-C. and Deng, X.
- 3544** Androgen responses to reproductive competition of males pursuing either fixed or plastic alternative reproductive tactics
von Kuerthy, C., Ros, A. F. H. and Taborsky, M.
- 3554** Transcriptomic analysis of instinctive and learned reward-related behaviors in honey bees
Naeger, N. L. and Robinson, G. E.
- 3562** Comparative physiological, biochemical and molecular thermal stress response profiles for two unionid freshwater mussel species
Payton, S. L., Johnson, P. D. and Jenny, M. J.
- 3575** Behavioural integration of auditory and antennal stimulation during phonotaxis in the field cricket *Gryllus bimaculatus*
Haberkern, H. and Hedwig, B.
- 3587** Additional in-series compliance reduces muscle force summation and alters the time course of force relaxation during fixed-end contractions
Mayfield, D. L., Launikonis, B. S., Cresswell, A. G. and Lichtwark, G. A.
- 3597** Adaptation to life in aeolian sand: how the sandfish lizard, *Scincus scincus*, prevents sand particles from entering its lungs
Stadler, A. T., Vihar, B., Günther, M., Huemer, M., Riedl, M., Shamiyeh, S., Mayrhofer, B., Böhme, W. and Baumgartner, W.
- 3605** Baroreflex regulation affects ventilation in the cururu toad *Rhinella schneideri*
Zena, L. A., da Silva, G. S. F., Gargaglioni, L. H. and Bicego, K. C.
- 3616** Continuous arterial P_{O_2} profiles in unrestrained, undisturbed aquatic turtles during routine behaviors
Williams, C. L. and Hicks, J. W.
- 3626** The mechanics of head-supported load carriage by Nepalese porters
Bastien, G. J., Willems, P. A., Schepens, B. and Heglund, N. C.
- 3635** Previous motor activity affects the transition from uncertainty to decision making in snails
Korshunova, T. A., Vorontsov, D. D. and Dyakonova, V. E.
- 3642** Flying high: limits to flight performance by sparrows on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
Sun, Y.-F., Ren, Z.-P., Wu, Y.-F., Lei, F.-M., Dudley, R. and Li, D.-M.
- 3649** Light level impacts locomotor biomechanics in a secondarily diurnal gecko, *Rhoptropus afer*
Birn-Jeffery, A. V. and Higham, T. E.
- 3656** Physiological characterization of the hematophagy of *Ornithodoros rostratus* (Acari: Argasidae) on live hosts
Costa, G. C. A., Soares, A. C., Pereira, M. H., Gontijo, N. F., Sant'Anna, M. R. V. and Araujo, R. N.
- 3665** Costs and benefits of vertical and horizontal transmission of dengue virus
Ruiz-Guzmán, G., Ramos-Castañeda, J., Hernández-Quintero, A. and Contreras-Garduño, J.