

B.Sc. (Hons.) PART-I
ZOOLOGY, PAPER, II-A

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ANIMAL BEHAVIOUR

INNATE BEHAVIOUR and LEARNED BEHAVIOUR

1] Innate Behaviour: —

Behaviour, that is clearly controlled by "genes" and subject to "natural selection" is innate behaviour.

An innate behavior is inheritable, passing from generation to generation through genes. It is also intrinsic, meaning that even an animal raised in isolation will perform the behavior, and stereotypic, meaning that it is done the same way every time.

Examples of Innate Behaviours:

- Web making in spiders.
- Nest building in birds.
- Fighting among male stickleback fish.

In the example of nest building

in birds, The bird builds their nest itself with no previous experiences of such an act.

LEARNED BEHAVIOR

Learning is a change in behavior

that occurs as a result of experience. Learned behaviors are adaptive because they are flexible. They can change if the environment changes. In general words Learned behaviors come

from experience and are not present in an animal at its birth. Through trial and error, memories of past experiences and observations of others, animals learn to perform certain task.

All animals have ability to learn therefore it is necessary to have ability to modify its behaviour through experience while exposed to changing environment.

~~Learned~~ Learned behaviors are not "inheritable" and must be taught to or learned by each individual.

Example of Learned Behavior :

Animals may learn behaviors in a variety of ways. Some ways are

quite simple. Others are more complex.

Honeybees provide an interesting example of learned behaviour. While the desire to find nectar is innate in a honeybee, they learn to associate given colours with the food they are seeking. In experiments reported by North Carolina State University, sugar water was put in a yellow dish while regular water was put in a blue dish. The honeybees learned that the yellow dish contained food and visited it while ignoring the blue dish, even when the positions of the dishes were changed. When regular water was put in the yellow dish and sugar water in the blue dish, however, the honeybees continued to visit the yellow dish until they learned through trial and error, that what they wanted was now in the blue dish.
