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On the interplay of life-history and population dynamics: emergent consequences of individual variability and specialization

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Curriculum vitae

Tobias van Kooten is born on Thursday the 20th of March 1975, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. After graduating from highschool in 1993 (VWO, Scholengemeenschap Casimir in Amstelveen), he studies Chinese language & culture at the Rijksuniversiteit Leiden. It takes him several months to find out what the rest of the world already knows: This is not what he wants. He finishes part of the first year Chinese curriculum, and takes a highschool-level chemistry course (a prerequisite for his next endeavour). In the fall of 1994, he starts as a first year biology student at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. During his third year, in 1997, he visits the department of Prof. Lennart Persson at Umeå Universitet in Sweden, for an undergraduate research project together with dr. Peter Eklöv. This project focuses on indirect (behavioral) effects between two predators and a shared prey, and the resulting interaction effects between the predators. During the experimental work he conducts in Sweden, Tobias learns what the rest of the world did not yet know, but he himself already suspected: He wants to be a theoretician. After five months in Sweden, and a period in Amsterdam to analyze the data and write a report, he starts a second undergraduate research project, with Prof. André de Roos at the Universiteit van Amsterdam. This project is concerned with the analysis of a model proposed to explain the cyclic population fluctuations of microtine rodents (voles) in northern Europe. On the 25th of October 1999, he obtains his 'doctordustitel' (MSc) from the Universiteit van Amsterdam. Six days later, he starts as a graduate student with André de Roos. After four years and three months, this project has resulted in the volume you are currently reading.