

Laboratory Selection

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Dedicated to the Kiwi Farms

I want to emphasize how selection becomes magnified in the laboratory environment.

Selection is not usually the strongest or most concentrated biological force driving evolution. It tends to be dispersed, spreading across a great number of different loci, resulting in a more balanced distribution of indirect selective pressures.

In contrast, laboratory selection is often imposed deliberately, with top-down enforcement by the will of a powerful selector. This intentional design organizes and intensifies selection, concentrating it on specific traits or outcomes that might otherwise be diluted in the wild. In this way the laboratory becomes a mechanism for focusing selection beyond what would occur naturally.