THE EXPLORATORY BEHAVIOR GENE

Curiosity is an essential characteristic of Homo sapiens, of scientists in particular: science is curiosity.

Preamble: Lake Tanganyika boasts over 250 cichlid species, each adapted to a specific ecological niche. Scientists have long been fascinated by this extraordinary level of diversification (speciation). Their research has explored various factors driving this phenomenon.

Is curiosity involved in this diversification? Researchers identified a specific genetic variant, an SNP, that appears to be linked to a "curiosity gene". Fishes with this SNP exhibit higher levels of exploratory behavior.

The paper appeared in Science (1). The discovery has aroused considerable curiosity ☺; it is in the spotlight of Trends in Genetics (2). The presence of this gene in humans, as in all vertebrates, further fuels the paper's significance.

If you are of a curious nature: go to YouTube (3)

1. https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adj9228
2. https://www.cell.com/trends/genetics/abstract/S0168-9525(24)00148-3?_returnURL=https%3A%2F%2Flinkinghub.elsevier.com%2Fretrieve%2Fpii%2FS0168952524001483%3Fshowall%3Dtrue
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wRvM6rQFsPU