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Microsatellite markers to establish dominance hierarchies. Horn size is a honest signal of individual quality, however, the genetic effect on horn size is not direct, but mediated by body mass and parasite resistance. See the paper “Direct and indirect causal effects of heterozygosity on fitness-related traits in Alpine ibex” by Alice Brambilla et al. published in Proceedings B (http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rspb.2014.1873). Photo credit: Antonello Provenzale.

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