

## **Supplementary material**

### **Hormonal Lockdown: How Mole-Rat Societies Enforce Infertility in Helpers**

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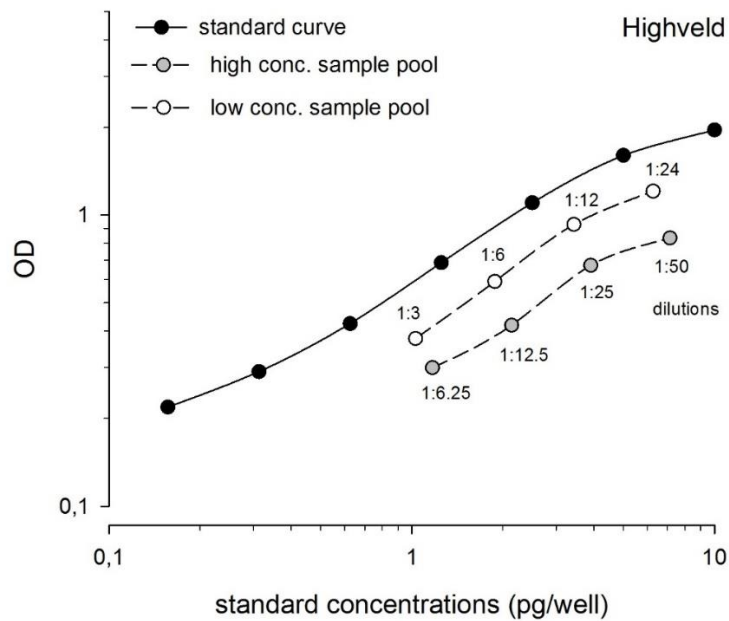
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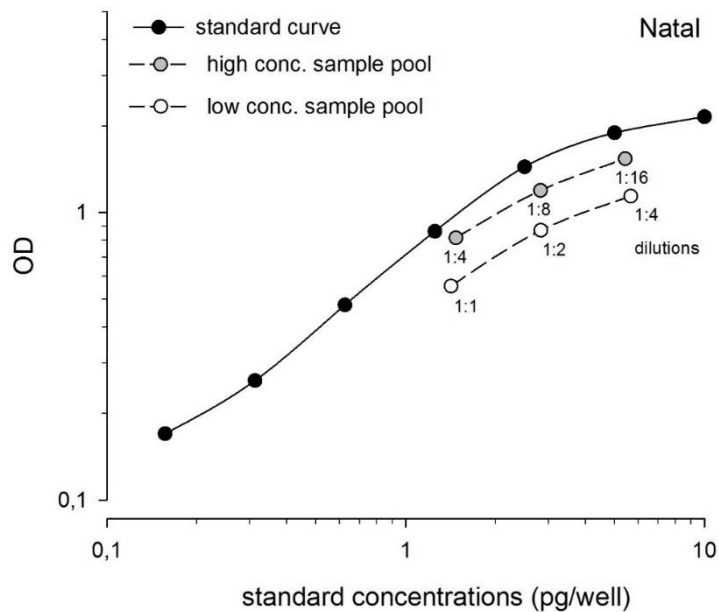
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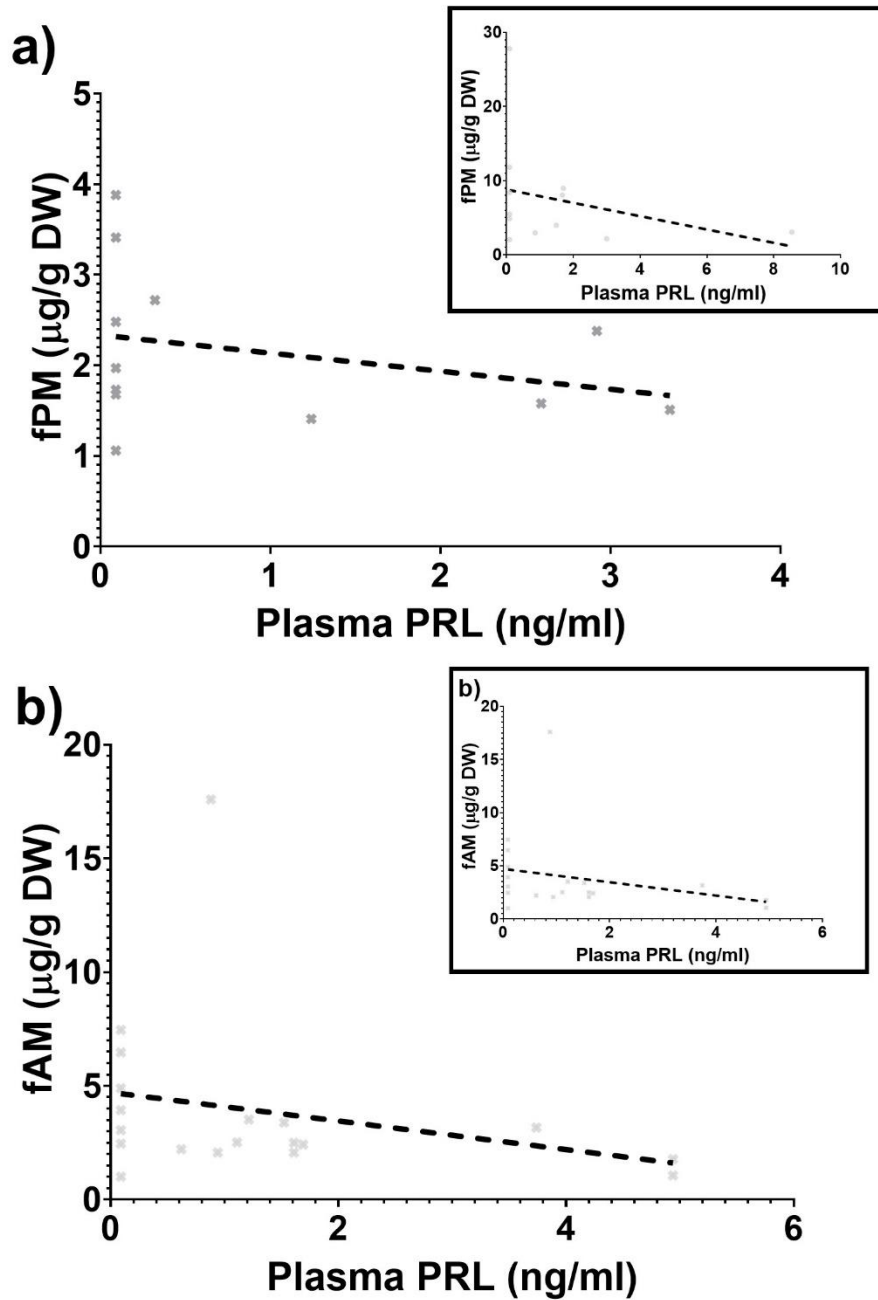


**Fig. S1.** Parallelism graph for the prolactin assay including serial dilutions of standard, low and high concentration sample pools for the highveld mole-rat (*Cryptomys hottentotus pretoriae*). Relative variation (%) of the slope of respective trendlines were <2%. OD: optical density.



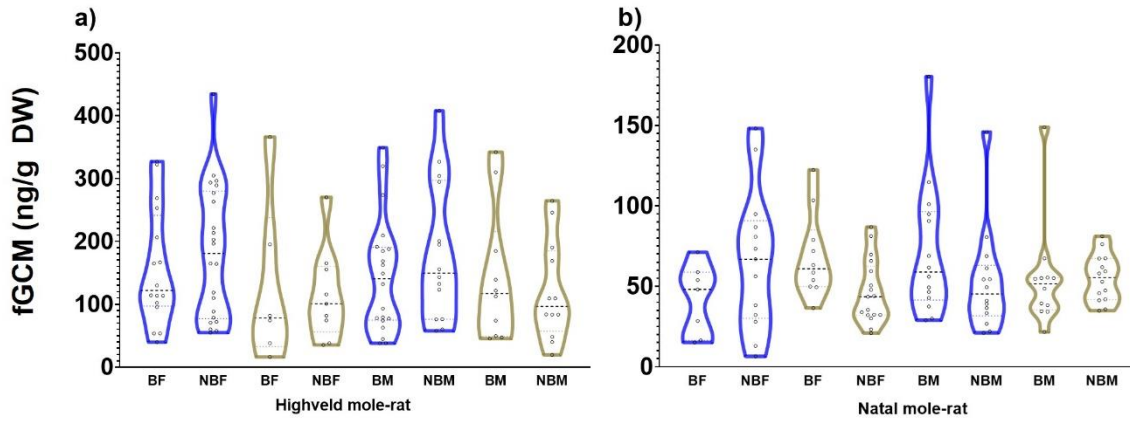
**Fig. S2.** Parallelism graph for the prolactin assay including serial dilutions of standard, low and high concentration sample pools for the Natal mole-rat (*Cryptomys*

*hottentotus natalensis*). Relative variation (%) of the slope of respective trendlines were <2%. OD: optical density.



**Fig. S3.** Linear relationships between faecal progesterone metabolite (fPM) and faecal androgen metabolite (fAM) concentrations and plasma prolactin (PRL) levels in non-breeding female (a) and non-breeding male (b) Natal mole-rats (*Cryptomys hottentotus natalensis*). Inserts show the corresponding relationships in breeding

females and males. Solid lines represent significant relationships ( $p \leq 0.05$ ) and dashed lines represent non-significant relationships ( $p > 0.05$ ).



**Fig. S4.** Faecal glucocorticoid metabolite (fGCM) concentrations (ng/g dry weight, DW) in breeding males (BM), breeding females (BF), non-breeding males (NBM), and non-breeding females (NBF) of (a) highveld (*Cryptomys hottentotus pretoriae*) and (b) Natal (*Cryptomys hottentotus natalensis*) mole-rats. Brown bars represent animals sampled during the dry season, while blue bars indicate those sampled in the wet season.

**Table S1: The number of individual mole-rats per species [highveld mole-rat (*Cryptomys hottentotus pretoriae*) and Natal mole-rat (*Cryptomys hottentotus natalensis*), sex [Male and Female], breeding status [Breeding and Non-breeder] and season [Wet and Dry]**

Species	Sex							
	Male				Female			
	Breeder		Non-breeder		Breeder		Non-breeder	
	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry	Wet	Dry
Natal mole-rat	14	12	29	24	8	17	26	24
Highveld mole-rat	19	14	14	12	16	8	28	23