What determines sex roles in mate searching?

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ABSTRACT

In a seminal paper, Hammerstein and Parker (1987) described how sex roles in mate

searching can be frequency-dependent: the need for one sex to perform mate searching is

diminished when the opposite sex takes on the greater searching effort. Intriguingly, this

predicts that females are just as likely to search as males, despite a higher potential

reproductive rate by the latter sex. This prediction, however, is not supported by data: male

mate searching prevails in nature. Counterexamples also exist in the empirical literature.

Depending on the taxon studied, female mate searching can arise in either low or high density

conditions, and suggested explanations differ accordingly. We examine these puzzling

observations by building two models (with and without sperm competition). When sperm

competition is explicitly included, male mate searching becomes the dominant pattern; when

it is excluded, male mate searching predominates only if we assume that costs of searching

are higher for females. Consequently, two hypotheses emerge from our models. The multiple

mating hypothesis explains male searching based on the ubiquity of sperm competition, and

predicts that female searching can arise in low-density situations where sperm can become

limiting. It can also explain cases of female pheromone production, where males pay the

majority of search costs. The sex-specific cost hypothesis predicts the opposite pattern of

female searching in high density conditions, and it potentially applies to some species in

which sperm limitation is unlikely.

Key words: mate search, sex roles, sperm competition, multiple mating, pheromone

42 In most sexually reproducing organisms, finding a conspecific mate requires some form of

43 physical activity: at least the gametes, but often the organisms themselves, have to be mobile.

44 Effort invested into mate searching, however, can be costly (Gwynne 1987; Acharya 1995;

45 Grafe 1997; Okuda 1999; Melville et al. 2003; Kasumovic et al. 2007). Searching effort can

46 be defined as a costly activity that evolves to improve mate encounter rates, whether this

47 involves physical movement or some other form of active behavior (for example calls or

48 pheromone production). For individuals of one sex, the problem is solved — in the sense that

49 mate finding does not require any effort — if the opposite sex performs sufficient searching.

50 Since males of a typical species benefit from multiple mating more than females (Bateman

51 1948), they are typically expected to be the mate-searching sex, and females should

52 consequently spend zero effort in mate-searching.

53 There are two reasons, however, why mate searching deserves closer attention: one

54 theoretical, and one empirical. Firstly, we lack a general theoretical explanation for the fact

55 that males often take on the searching role. In a seminal paper, Hammerstein and Parker

56 (1987) considered the mate search conundrum using a game theoretical approach. Their

57 'mobility game' attempted to explain why one sex should invest greater search and movement

58 effort than the other, and why males tend to be the ones that end up assuming the greater

59 effort (i.e. females typically 'win' the game). Prima facie, one might expect males to be the

60 more mobile sex if females invest more in offspring and represent a limiting resource for

61 males (Parker 1978). Hammerstein and Parker (1987) found, however, that a searching male

62 strategy and a searching female strategy were alternative evolutionary stable strategies

63 (ESSs). The relative investment in offspring did not matter to the model outcome, and females

64 could 'lose' both the game over parental investment and the one over effort spent in

65 searching.

66 In other words, theory explains why one sex should expend greater search effort than the

67 other (instead of both sexes investing equally), but it does not explain *which* of the sexes this

68 should be. Thus, while it may sound intuitive that differences in gametic investment and

69 consequent asymmetries in parental care explain why males search, modeling does not

70 confirm this but predicts, instead, divergent searching patterns (here we use 'divergence' as a

71 shorthand for a pattern in which current sex differences are magnified consequences of slight

72 ancestral deviations in searching patterns). Since Hammerstein and Parker (1987), very little

73 theoretical effort has been spent on this problem. The only examples we are aware of consider

74 highly taxon-specific questions, such as payoffs that depend on the time of day in lekking

75 insects (Ide and Kondoh 2000). This lack of progress is surprising, given that our theoretical

76 understanding of sex roles has otherwise advanced considerably (e.g., Clutton-Brock and

77 Parker 1992; Parker and Simmons 1996; Queller 1997; Kokko and Monaghan 2001).

78 The second reason for further analysis is an empirical one. There are relatively few studies

79 explicitly devoted to studying the relative roles of males and females as mate searchers and,

80 among the handful that have considered the topic, there is a lack of consensus regarding

81 factors that favor mate-searching by females. On the one hand, evidence suggests that females

82 should expend greater search effort if search costs are low. Such a situation often appears to

83 correspond to high density. In fiddler crabs *Uca beebei*, for example, females increase their

84 mate search activities when crab densities are high; the abundance of nearby burrows at such

85 densities reduce female search costs by allowing them to escape quickly from potential

86 predators (deRivera et al. 2003). Arguments linking reduced search costs with female mate

87 searching has also been suggested for moths (Greenfield 1981). Here, the adaptive reasoning

88 is based on the contention that females are the limiting sex and thus should not be expected to

89 pay high costs of searching.

90   On the other hand, evidence from other taxa suggests that high density can favor male, rather

91   than female, searching (Kokko and Rankin 2006). In several species of frogs and orthoptera,

92   for example, males, at low densities, use acoustic signals to attract searching females but, at

93   higher densities, may switch over to a roaming strategy (Alexander 1975; Wells 1977; Davies

94   and Halliday 1979; Byrne and Roberts 2004). Although one should keep in mind taxon-

95   specific explanations, such as the need to avoid male-male competition caused by silent

96   satellite frogs that join calling males (Lucas and Howard 1995), this alternative response to

97   density has also led to a suggested general explanation of sex roles (Wickman and Rutowski

98   1999): males should be the default searching sex because they have the most to gain from

99   multiple matings but, at low density, females are selected to begin searching because any

100 delay in becoming fertilized is costly for a female (see also Kokko and Mappes 2005).

101 More generally, high search effort by females is not always linked to situations when costs are

102 low. Evidence suggest that females are capable of expending considerable effort on mate

103 searching even when confronted with high search costs. This is seen, for example, in the

104 cardinal fish *Apogon niger*, where increased mobility by mate-searching females late in the

105 breeding season is correlated positively with their rate of disappearance attributed, apparently,

106 to mortality by predatory flounder and lizardfish (Okuda 1999). During their short life time,

107 female butterflies *Coenonympha pamphilus* incur significant time costs by traveling to visit

108 males at the lek (Wickman and Jansson 1997). In that species, it has been suggested that the

109 fitness costs suffered by females, in the form of reduced fecundity, is ameliorated by potential

110 indirect benefits of mating with males at the lek (Wickman and Jansson 1997). A similar

111 argument has been made for pronghorn *Antilocapra americana*, an ungulate in which females

112 in estrus spend considerable amounts of energy moving between harems before mating (Byers

113 et al. 2005). Finally, there are also cases where both sexes invest in mate-finding traits. In

114 many arthropods, for example, females produce pheromones, and males follow these

115 chemical trails (Greenfield 1981; Cardé and Baker 1984; Cardé and Hagaman 1984; Takács

116 et al. 2002; Melville et al. 2003; Nahrung and Allen 2004).

117 Here, our goal is to extend earlier theory and provide models that can produce the observed

118 diversity of searching outcomes, including the 'female pheromone' case with large investment

119 in males and a small, but important, investment in females. We do not base our model on

120 particular features of any taxa. Instead, we aim at maximum generality by keeping the life

121 history as simple as possible, and by varying parameters such as the mate encounter rate from

122 extremely small values (representing slow moving, widely dispersed, solitary organisms) to

123 very high ones (representing, for example, colonial species). We begin by defining mate

124 searching effort in a way that excludes non-adaptive correlations between mobility and mate

125 finding, and then proceed to building self-consistent (Houston and McNamara 2005) models

126 of searching effort, one without, and another with, sperm competition. Our models validate

127 the symmetry argument by Hammerstein and Parker (1987) that searching by either sex can

128 diminish selection for mate searching in the other. However, our models also lead to two

129 different hypotheses that can be used to explain the greater prevalence of male (versus

130 female) searching, and we will examine their explanatory power in the Discussion.

131   SELF-CONSISTENCY AND THE DEFINITION OF MATE SEARCHING

132 We develop two self-consistent models where males and females attempt to locate each other

133 for the purpose of mating. Self-consistency means that fitness must be evaluated by taking

134 into account the fact that total reproduction by males should equal total reproduction by

135 females, since every individual has one mother and one father. This simple fact, termed the

136 Fisher condition by Houston and McNamara (2005), has been shown to be surprisingly

137 important for developing correct predictions in conceptual models of reproductive behaviors

138   (e.g., Queller 1997; Webb et al. 1999; Houston and McNamara 2002, 2005; Kokko and

139   Jennions 2003; Arnqvist 2004; Houston et al. 2005).

140   In both models, we assume that females and males are free to invest any amount of effort (i.e.

141   zero or positive) into mate-searching. We denote this investment by x for females, and y for

142   males. Investment in mate-searching is assumed to increase the rate with which the searching

143   individual finds members of the opposite sex, and to impose costs on the searcher. These

144   costs are expressed as a reduction in some other component of fitness. In our particular model

145   formulation, we assume that this component is survival (i.e. mate searching carries a mortality

146   cost), but there is no reason why the conclusions could not be extended to other fitness costs

147   as well (e.g., fecundity).

148   Our cost-based definition of investment in mate searching resembles the definition of parental

149   investment, namely, care that is performed at a cost to future offspring production (Trivers

150   1972). To avoid drawing erroneous conclusions from our model, it is important to focus on

151   these costs, because they help to distinguish between behaviors that are selected for other

152   reasons but happen also to improve mate encounter rates, and behaviors that are selected

153   *because* they improve mate encounter rates. For example, consider a butterfly where females

154   have to locate resources required for the larvae to develop (e.g. a suitable host plant for

155   oviposition). Females are obviously selected to fly until they find such a resource. For a male,

156   it may be optimal to wait at a resource patch if he has found one, or to intercept a female that

157   is making her way to the resource. The observation preceding a mate encounter is that a

158   female flies towards a male; however, this should not, *sensu stricto*, be classified as

159   investment in mate searching by the female, because no extra cost is incurred on top of what

160   she would have expended in any case in her quest to find a suitable egg-laying patch (see also

161   Groddeck et al. 2004). Thus $x = 0$ in such a case. If, on the other hand, she traveled to a male

162   lek before flying to the resource patch, the extra travel time involved presumably carries

163   some direct cost on survival and/or fecundity. Consequently, one should classify the female's

164   behavior as investment in mate-searching, $x > 0$.

165   SELF-CONSISTENT MODEL WITH NO SPERM COMPETITION

166   We base our models on the concept of reproductive value and invasion fitness: a strategy of

167   mate-searching can invade if, and only if, it yields higher fitness than the resident strategy

168   (Metz et al. 1992). Fitness in this setting is a weighted sum of the number of different types of

169   individuals that the focal individual contributes to the population, weighted by the

170   reproductive value of each individual type (e.g., McNamara and Houston 1986, 1996; Taylor

171   1990). Our model is based on a continuous-time setting, for the reason that males and females

172   may spend quite dissimilar times in parenting activities. This implies that an individual may

173   contribute, at any given time, to the future population in three ways: by actual offspring

174   production, by surviving itself without changing state, or by surviving and changing state. All

175   these options are taken into account in the concept of reproductive value, following the

176   method outlined in Härdling et al. (2003).

177   Following a tradition in the literature of sex role evolution (Clutton-Brock and Parker 1992;

178   Parker and Simmons 1996; Wiklund et al. 1998; Kokko and Monaghan 2001; Kokko and Ots

179   2006), we define the relevant states as 'time in' and 'time out' for both sexes (Figure 1). In

180   our first model, mating occurs every time a male and a female meet in 'time in'. There is only

181   one mating preceding the production of offspring, and we assume that females cannot store

182   sperm. We thus exclude sperm competition and multiple mating within one reproductive cycle

183   of a female. Following mating, g offspring of each sex are produced. Both parents then enter a

184   'time out' stage (*sensu* Clutton-Brock and Parker 1992), which makes them unable to mate

185   again before a certain time has elapsed.

186   'Time out' activities may involve parental care, replenishing sperm stores, or any other task

187   that must be performed before reproduction is possible again. Because sexes often differ

188   greatly in their parental investment, the duration of the time out period can be very different

189   for the sexes, which also limits their potential reproductive rate (PRR, Clutton-Brock and

190   Vincent 1991; Clutton-Brock and Parker 1992). For example, with mortality rate 0.1 and time

191   out $T_F = 1$ for females, females can reproduce, on average, approximately 10 times before

192   dying. By contrast, males with time out $T_M = 0.01$ can experience reproductive events at a

193   hundredfold rate compared to females during the same time frame (were they able to find the

194   necessary number of females with whom to mate; see Queller 1997; Kokko and Jennions

195   2003; Arnqvist 2004).

196   Female search effort, x, and male search effort, y, both influence the mating rate of females

197   and males who are in 'time in'. Females mate at a rate $m_F(x,y)$, and males at a rate $m_M(x,y)$.

198   These rates are increasing functions of both x and y. In a population with an unbiased

199   operational sex ratio (OSR), these two rates are equal. However, males and females can enjoy

200   different mating rates if the OSR is biased towards one or the other sex. In a population

201   consisting of β males : females in the 'time in' state, the mating rate for the two sexes can be

202   written as $m_F(x,y) = Mf(x, y)\sqrt{\beta}$, and $m_M(x,y) = Mf(x, y)/\sqrt{\beta}$, where $f(x,y)$ describes the

203   searching outcome, i.e. how mate encounter rates respond to mate-searching behavior of the

204   two sexes. Because searching improves mate encounter rates, we have $\partial f/\partial x > 0$, and $\partial f/\partial y >$

205   0, but many different functional forms are possible. For example, $f(x,y) = xy$ assumes that both

206   sexes must perform some searching before they can find each other at all, while $f(x,y)=x+y$

207   describes a species in which mates encounter each other frequently as soon as one of the sexes

208   searches sufficiently. The parameter M ($M > 0$) is used to compare mate encounter rates

209   between populations or species (*cf*. Kokko and Monaghan 2001; Härdling and Kaitala 2005;

210   Kokko and Mappes 2005). Importantly, the operational sex ratio β depends on searching

211   effort, $\beta = \beta(x,y)$, since searching influences mating rates and consequently also sex-specific

212   mortalities and the amount of time individuals spend in the 'time in' state. Equation (3) in

213   Kokko and Monaghan (2001) gives the value of β once mating rates are known.

214   To keep in line with our definition of mate-searching as an investment that carries costs, we

215   introduce a mortality cost during 'time in' (other types of cost could be equally easily added

216   to the model, such as mortality during 'time out', lengthening the duration of 'time out', or

217   reducing fecundity for females). Thus, for females, the mortality during 'time in' is $\mu_F(x)$,

218   which is an increasing function of x, while during 'time out' the mortality is fixed, μ_{FO}. For

219   males, the corresponding values are $\mu_M(y)$ and μ_{MO}. Note that in a continuous-time

220   formulation, the mortalities can take any value $\mu > 0$: values exceeding unity simply mean an

221   expected lifespan below 1.

222   The evolution of female and male behavior can be tracked by building a matrix for

223   reproductive values that develop in continuous time (for details of the method see Härdling et

224   al. 2003):

225                                 $$d\mathbf{v}/dt = \mathbf{v}\mathbf{Q} \qquad\qquad (1)$$

226   Here, $\mathbf{v} = (v_{FO}, v_{FI}, v_{MO}, v_{MI})$ marks the vector of reproductive values of females in time out,

227   females in time in, males in time out, and males in time in. The transition matrix $\mathbf{Q}$ is given

228   by

$$\mathbf{Q} = \left(q_{ij}\right) = \begin{pmatrix} -\dfrac{1}{T_F} - \mu_{FO} & m_F & 0 & 0 \\[2mm] \dfrac{1}{T_F} & m_F(g-1) - \mu_F & 0 & m_M g \\[2mm] 0 & 0 & -\dfrac{1}{T_M} - \mu_{MO} & m_M \\[2mm] 0 & m_F g & \dfrac{1}{T_M} & m_M(g-1) - \mu_M \end{pmatrix} \qquad (2)$$

229

230 where, for brevity, we use notation m_F for $m_F(x,y)$, μ_F for $\mu_F(x)$, etc. The elements of this

231 matrix give the continuous-time *per capita* rates of changing from one state to another, where

232 the states are listed in the same order as in the vector **v** but now columns indicate the current

233 state and rows the future state. For example, column 1 lists two possible transitions made by a

234 female in the 'time out' state. She may return to 'time in', which happens at rate $1/T_F$, and

235 since this means changing the reproductive value from v_{FO} to v_{FI} (i.e. add v_{FI}, remove v_{FO}), the

236 rate $1/T_F$ appears as an addition in the 2nd column (the 2nd element gives v_{FI} in **v**) but as a

237 subtraction in the 1st row (corresponding to v_{FO} in **v**). The female may also die, which

238 happens at a rate μ_{FO}, and leads to a loss of reproductive value v_{FO} and no gain — i.e. the rate

239 μ_{FO} appears as an additional loss in row 1. Other columns are similarly derived. Reproduction

240 happens at rate m_F and m_M for females and males, respectively, and this adds reproductive

241 values of offspring $g\,v_{FI}$ and $g\,v_{MI}$ to the matrix equations. Note that offspring values do not

242 depend on who the parents were, thus we ignore the possibility that mate searching evolves as

243 a means to sample several potential mates and mate with the ones of highest quality; see

244 Discussion for this limitation.

245 Härdling et al. (2003) produced a method to calculate the selection differentials in a

246 continuous-time setting with several states. When a resident population (using x^*, y^*) is at

247 population equilibrium, the reproductive values **v*** satisfy $d\mathbf{v}^*/dt = 0$ (Härdling et al. 2003).

248   The equilibrium requirement yields the following relationships between reproductive

249   values of states:

$$v_{FI}*/v_{FO}* = 1+\mu_{FO}T_F \tag{3a}$$

$$v_{MI}*/v_{MO}* = 1+\mu_{MO}T_M \tag{3b}$$

252   and
$$v_{MI}*/v_{FI}* = \frac{\mu_F}{m_F} - \frac{g-1}{g} - \frac{1}{g(1+\mu_{FO})} \tag{3c}$$

253   Consider a mutant female with strategy x in a population in which $x*$ and $y*$ are in use.

254   Assume that the mutant is rare, which means that its search effort x changes its mating rate

255    $m_F(x)$ via its effect on $f(x,y*)$, but the operational sex ratio β experienced by the mutant is not

256   significantly altered by its presence but determined by population-wide behavior $x*$ and $y*$,

257   thus $\beta = \beta(x*,y*)$. (Obviously the population may shift to a new $x*$ and $y*$ as the eventual

258   consequence of successful mutant invasion, and β will thus be recalculated for each pair $\{x*,$

259    $y*\}$ when determining evolutionary trajectories). The strength of selection at $\{x*, y*\}$ is a

260   partial derivative of the mutant's reproductive value $\partial v_{FI}(x,x*)/\partial x \mid_{x=x*,y=y*}$, where

$$v_{FI}(x,x*) = e^{-r*} [v_{FO}* q_{11} + v_{FI}* q_{21} + v_{MI}* q_{41}]$$

$$= e^{-r*} [v_{FO}* m_F(x) + v_{FI}* [m_F(x)(g-1)-\mu_F(x)] + v_{MI}* m_F(x) g] \tag{4}$$

263   Here, $r*$ is the continuous-time growth rate of the resident population, which equals $r* = 0$

264   for a population at equilibrium. Note that equation (4) is a continuous-time version of mutant

265   reproductive values such as, for example, eq. 17 in Pen et al. (1999). Using equations (3a-c)

266   and (4), we find that the selection differential for female searching equals, up to a constant of

267   proportionality,

$$268 \qquad S_{\mathrm{F}} = g\,\frac{1}{m_{\mathrm{F}}}\frac{\partial m_{\mathrm{F}}}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\mu_{\mathrm{F}}}\frac{\mathrm{d}\mu_{\mathrm{F}}}{\mathrm{d}x} \qquad (5a)$$

269   A similar derivation gives the male selection differential

$$270 \qquad S_{\mathrm{M}} = g\,\frac{1}{m_{\mathrm{M}}}\frac{\partial m_{\mathrm{M}}}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{\mu_{\mathrm{M}}}\frac{\mathrm{d}\mu_{\mathrm{M}}}{\mathrm{d}y} \qquad (5b)$$

271   The conditions $S_{\mathrm{F}} > 0$ and $S_{\mathrm{M}} > 0$ select for increased mate searching in females and males,

272   respectively. We will derive evolutionary trajectories assuming that searching in the two sexes

273   evolves independently (no genetic covariances between male and female searching).

274   *No sperm competition: results*

275   The interpretation of equations (5a-b) gives a surprising conclusion: a difference in the 'time

276   out' of the two sexes is not reflected in the equations at all. Nor does the species-specific mate

277   encounter rate M influence solutions: while it influences m_{F} and m_{M}, it cancels out in the LHS

278   of eqs. 5a-b.

279   How should the independence of searching roles from reproductive effort (time out) be

280   understood? The term $1/m_{\mathrm{F}}\,\partial m_{\mathrm{F}}/\partial x$ gives the proportional increase in female mate encounter

281   rates for a certain proportional increase in investment in mate-searching. The corresponding

282   term for males is $1/m_{\mathrm{M}}\,\partial m_{\mathrm{M}}/\partial y$. Since the total reproduction in each of the two sexes is the

283   same, and every mating leads to the same expected number (g) of offspring production, there

284   must be equally many reproductive events for females as there are for males; they are also

285   equally valuable. Thus, a given increase (say 1%) in the mating rate gives the same

286   proportional increase in an individual's fitness, regardless of which sex the individual belongs

287   to, or whether mate finding is easy or difficult.

288   Nevertheless, equations (5a-b) allow for the possibility that one sex performs the majority,

289   or all, of the mate-searching. As a whole, individuals of a given sex are selected to search

290   more if their mortality is high ($1/\mu$ is low), if the increase in mortality by doing more

291   searching is relatively low ($d\mu/dt$), if mate-finding is currently a slow process ($1/m$ is high),

292   and if a significant increase in mate encounter rates can be achieved by increasing investment

293   in searching (high $\partial m_F/\partial x$ or $\partial m_M/\partial y$). The last two facts mean that one sex can rely on effort

294   by the other sex. If, for example, the outcome of searching is given by $f(x,y) = x+y$, then $1/m_M$

295    $\partial m_M/\partial y$ will be proportional to $1/(x+y)$. The more females search, the smaller is the incentive

296   for males to do so ($1/(x+y)$ decreases with increasing x), and vice versa.

297   However, this does not automatically lead to the two equilibrium states of either male or

298   female searching. Hammerstein and Parker (1987) pointed out that frequency dependence can

299   imply divergent searching roles. Another mechanism inherent in equations 5a-b acts against

300   divergence, however: searching costs may favor searching in the sex that currently spends

301   little effort. The sex that already invests a lot in mate-searching will have high mortality as a

302   result of doing so, and if searching has strongly accelerating costs, it is then more likely that

303   further increases in searching are selected against in this sex. Accelerating costs mean that a

304   little searching can be performed without great mortality risk, and only much more intensive

305   searching carries significant costs. Such cases lead to solutions where both sexes invest

306   equally much in mate-searching (Figure 2).

307   The importance of the shape of the cost function is shown by a comparison between cases

308   where the mortality increase with mate searching is fairly linear (Figure 2a), accelerating

309   (quadratic; Figure 2b) or strongly accelerating (Figure 2c). In the first case, we predict that

310   only one sex searches, and initial, incidental factors determine which one it is (Figure 2a). In

311   the second case, there is a line of neutrally stable equilibria, and populations approach any

312   point along this line, again depending on starting conditions of ancient populations. Here,

313   both sexes may search, but they will do so to a different degree: female mate searching is

314   inversely proportional to male mate searching. In the third case, both sexes converge towards

315   a single equilibrium, where they invest equal effort into mate searching (Figure 2c).

316   Intuitively, one would imagine that widely differing parental roles (very different T_F and T_M)

317   should give an *a priori* reason for males to search more than females. In our fully self-

318   consistent life-history model, we have used a modeling approach that has become one of the

319   standard ways to predict sex role asymmetries (Clutton-Brock and Parker 1992; Parker and

320   Simmons 1996; Kokko and Monaghan 2001). Yet we simply reproduced one central feature

321   of the influential model by Hammerstein and Parker (1987): the images in Figure 2 are

322   symmetrical with respect to the diagonal, thus there is a fundamental symmetry between the

323   sexes and either sex can end up as the searcher.

324   It is possible, however, to make the equilibrium of one sex (say, males) be approached more

325   easily than the other. This is achieved by altering the sex-specific parameter values. For

326   example, increasing the female cost of searching by 50% compared to males, shifts the basins

327   of attraction from a symmetrical case (Figure 3a) to one where evolution more easily proceeds

328   towards male searching (Figure 3b). Arguing that searching is more costly for males produces

329   an equally strong shift in the direction of female searching (not shown).

330   INTRODUCING SPERM COMPETITION

331   A close inspection of the 'time in'–'time out' modeling framework, above, reveals a

332   potentially unrealistic feature: females always commence reproduction as soon as they have

333   mated once. Although this may be true for some taxa (speckled wood butterflies *Pararge*

334   *aegeria*, for example, typically mate once and then spend the rest of their lives looking for

335   places to lay their eggs: Gotthard et al. 1999), in many species females often mate multiply

336   before any offspring are produced (Jennions and Petrie 2000). This introduces sperm

337   competition, and means that some (often many) matings do not lead to fertilization.

338   We now introduce a biologically determined minimum time spent in mating activities — the

339   mating window. For our argument it does not matter if it is asynchronous or synchronous

340   between females; in the model it is kept asynchronous. The mating window is included in

341   'time in', and females spend it acquiring multiple matings. Offspring can be sired by any male

342   who mates with the female during the mating window. The duration of the mating window

343   can be arbitrarily defined (we use unity). The duration can be short: for example in frogs, the

344   mating window for a female could be simply the time it takes to release all of her eggs.

345   During this time, several males may be trying to amplex the female, resulting in multiple

346   matings (Byrne and Roberts 2000). In a seasonally breeding organism that can store sperm, on

347   the other hand, the mating window can be a whole year, if a female lays eggs in the spring and

348   uses sperm from males she has encountered up to a year before. Nevertheless, she may not

349   have encountered many males, if the mate encounter rate M during this year has been small

350   (e.g. a result of infrequent, perhaps once-a-year nuptial flights).

351   To make biological sense, this means that the mean number of matings during a mating

352   window, which we denote by N, and the species-specific mate encounter rate, M, should

353   covary across species. Such a correlation will emerge in our examples, but the number of

354   matings will also increase if either females or males search efficiently (high x and/or y).

355   Inclusion of the mating window means that the OSR calculation (β from eq. 3 in Kokko and

356   Monaghan 2001) becomes an approximation. To ensure that the approximation remains

357   sufficiently accurate, we use low mortality values compared to the length of the mating

358   window.

359 Since mate encounters are an intrinsically random process, there is a chance that the female

360 spends the mating window without meeting anyone (Kuussaari et al. 1998; Rhainds et al.

361 1999; Kokko and Mappes 2005), and in that case we assume that she cannot reproduce before

362 she has completed another mating window. Denoting by p the probability that at least one

363 mate has been found during a mating window, and taking note that each window is unity in

364 length, her rate of commencing reproduction from the 'time in' state now equals p. If males

365 are found as a Poisson process with a mean value of $m_F(x,y)$ (which implies $N = m_F(x,y)$), a

366 female will be unsuccessful in locating a male with probability $e^{-m_F(x,y)}$. Therefore, $p =$

367 $1 - e^{-m_F(x,y)}$.

368 The selection differential for females (equation 5a), up to a proportionality constant, now

369 takes the form

370
$$S_F = g \frac{1}{p} \frac{\partial p}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\mu_F} \frac{\partial \mu_F}{\partial x}$$

371
$$= b_F \frac{\partial m_F}{\partial x} - \frac{1}{\mu_F} \frac{\partial \mu_F}{\partial x}, \text{ where } b_F = g \frac{e^{-N}}{1 - e^{-N}} \tag{6}$$

372 For males, the situation is different. They will suffer from reduced mating success in each

373 mating when females mate multiply, which correctly takes self-consistency into account, but

374 the gains still remain linear: every additional mating improves reproductive success equally

375 much. From each mating with a female, males gain g offspring if the female mates with no

376 other males during the mating window, $g/2$ offspring if she mates once with someone else, $g/3$

377 if twice, and so on. The expected gain from each mating is obtained from the Poisson

378 distribution,

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} \frac{g}{i+1} e^{-N} \left(\frac{N^i}{i!} \right) = g \frac{1-e^{-N}}{N} \tag{7a}$$

379

380   which gives the male selection differential

$$S_{\mathrm{M}} = b_{\mathrm{M}} \frac{\partial m_{\mathrm{M}}}{\partial y} - \frac{1}{\mu_{\mathrm{M}}} \frac{\partial \mu_{\mathrm{M}}}{\partial y} \text{ , where } b_{\mathrm{M}} = g \frac{1-e^{-N}}{m_{\mathrm{M}} N} \tag{7b}$$

381

382   The terms b_{F} and b_{M} relate mating success to offspring production, i.e. they are the slopes of

383   the Bateman gradient (Bateman 1948). The ratio $b_{\mathrm{M}}/b_{\mathrm{F}}$, describing how much more males

384   benefit from finding additional mates than females, increases very strongly with multiple

385   mating (Figure 4). When one mating window offers an abundance of mating opportunities,

386   most matings are superfluous to females: they do not make a difference to whether she can

387   commence reproduction or not, leading to a shallow slope $\partial p/\partial x$ and therefore a small b_{F}. For

388   males, each mating also brings about smaller expected fitness gains when there is much sperm

389   competition (b_{M} decreases with N), but every mating, nevertheless, contributes to additional

390   paternity chances; b_{M} therefore stays above b_{F}, the difference increasing with N (Figure 4).

391   *Sperm competition: results*

392   Once sperm competition is included in the model, mate encounter rates have a strong

393   influence on investment in mate searching (Figure 5), and the solutions show sexual

394   asymmetries (Figure 5). High mate encounter rates (M) lead to solutions close to the lower

395   left corner in Figure 5a, and they indicate little or no searching by females, and significant

396   investment in mate-searching by males. The value of N, the average number of males a female

397   mates with, is high in these cases. Low mate encounter rates, on the other hand, lead to very

398   high investment in searching by both sexes, and increasing symmetry in effort spent by both

399   males and females (dots near the right end of Figure 5a). More intensive mate searching

400   does not fully compensate for the rarity of mate encounters, as N stays low at this end of

401   Figure 5a.

402   It is notable that the same outcomes are approached, regardless of whether females or males

403   were assumed to be the originally searching sex (Figure 5a). In other words, including sperm

404   competition reduces the tendency for sex roles to be divergent (Figure 4 and 5a). However, if

405   costs have a similar shape that produced divergent roles in the model without sperm

406   competition — i.e. little acceleration and thus little 'extra' cost for the already searching sex

407   to search more — and if the mate encounter rate M is low, then divergence can be found even

408   when sperm competition is included (Figure 5b). Females are not very likely to find several

409   males during one mating window when M is low, which explains its resemblance to the

410   scenario without sperm competition. For example, the lowest value of M considered in Figure

411   5b ($M = 0.1$) will retain female searching at equilibrium if they were initially the searching

412   sex. At this equilibrium, $N = 0.37$, such that females will not find a male in $\exp(-0.37) = 69\%$

413   of all their attempts to complete a mating window, and only 5% of females mate multiply.

414   The model can also be applied to cases where mate location is extremely difficult unless both

415   sexes indicate their presence in some way to members of the opposite sex. This is seen, for

416   example, in many insect systems where mate-finding is mediated by pheromones produced by

417   females to attract mate-searching males. In some extreme cases, sex differences in mobility

418   (e.g. ability to fly) mean that females are entirely dependent on searching males who detect

419   and locate the "calling" females (Alcock 1981). There may often be remarkable asymmetry in

420   the effort expended by each sex. Females often only need to release minute quantities of

421   pheromone to elicit a strong response from patrolling males. The cost of pheromone

422   production has been little studied but is generally presumed to be small (Greenfield 1981;

423   Cardé and Baker 1984; Svensson 1996; but see Blows 2002). Males, on the other hand,

424   usually develop extreme mechanisms to follow these trails (e.g. extreme sensitivity to

425   pheromone compounds, Angioy et al. 2003), and may often suffer considerable mortality

426   risks following the pheromone signal (Acharya 1995; Svensson 1996).

427   Figure 6a shows evolutionary trajectories when the searching outcome is multiplicative, $f(x,y)$

428    $= xy$, which necessitates some effort by both sexes before $f(x,y)>0$ is reached. Unsurprisingly,

429   both sexes now spend some effort in mate location, but the overall shape of the solutions stays

430   similar to that of figure 5: solutions become fairly symmetrical only once M is so small that

431   multiple mating becomes fairly rare. When multiple mating is common, males perform the

432   majority of mate-locating tasks. Figure 6b shows the effect of searching on individual

433   mortalities. The effort that females accept to spend will have minute costs: they evolve to

434   accept a mortality increase of less than 0.01%, when they find, on average, 10 or more mates

435   (two leftmost dots in Figure 6b). Males, in the meanwhile, accept much higher costs.

436   However, if an average female finds less than 4 males during a mating window, mortality

437   increases of more than 10% become acceptable for both sexes, and in extreme cases ($N = 1.28$

438   in the rightmost dot, Figure 6b, indicates an $\exp(-1.28) = 27.8\%$ risk of remaining unmated)

439   both females and males can perform activities that double their mortality, if these improve

440   mate encounter rates sufficiently.

441   DISCUSSION

442   Recent theoretical literature has highlighted the need to reanalyze conflicts where

443   reproductive activities can, in principle, be performed by either sex but, in reality, show

444   strong sex biases. For example, female-biased parental care does not immediately follow from

445   the fact that males can potentially reproduce more often than females. This is because actual

446   (rather than potential) mating rates must be equal across the two sexes (e.g., Queller 1997;

447   Kokko and Jennions 2003; Arnqvist 2004; Kokko et al. 2006), and models must take this

448   into account to be self-consistent (Houston et al. 2005; Houston and McNamara 2005). This

449   so-called Fisher condition (*sensu* Houston and McNamara 2005) has important consequences

450   for mate searching. The intuitive reasoning, that males search because a high potential

451   reproductive rate imposes high opportunity costs on them if they do not search, turns out to be

452   fragile (Hammerstein and Parker 1987). If we assume that the production of offspring

453   immediately follows every mating (i.e. no sperm competition), either sex can end up

454   assuming the searching role, and males should be no more likely to take on the greater search

455   effort than females even if the sexes differ in parental investment. The reason why the

456   opportunity cost argument fails is that a male cannot mate if there are no females available to

457   mate with, and the Fisher condition guarantees that males on average do not reproduce any

458   faster than females. Instead, our results predict either divergence (the sex that ancestrally

459   searched more ends up taking the searching role, i.e. the "two ESS" solution found by

460   Hammerstein and Parker 1987) or convergence, where both sexes search equally much. In

461   either case, any notion that males should be automatically directed to the searching role

462   merely because of differences in gametic investment remains unsupported.

463   Our models do, however, predict sexual asymmetries in two different ways. First, in the

464   absence of multiple mating, a greater prevalence of male than female searching can be

465   predicted if some aspect of female biology makes searching more costly for females than for

466   males. We call this the *sex-specific cost hypothesis*. Second, when we allow for sperm

467   competition in the model, an asymmetry is created that predicts much more mate searching by

468   males. We call this the *multiple mating hypothesis*. We consider each hypothesis in turn.

469 *Does the ubiquity of male searching reflect the ubiquity of sex-specific costs?*

470 Sex differences in costs are probably common because males and females typically differ

471 from each other in many aspects of their reproductive biology, and any differences such as

472 size dimorphism or elaborate ornaments could cause the direct costs of searching (such as

473 mortality) to differ between the sexes. Nevertheless, we consider it unlikely that sex-specific

474 costs can explain the ubiquity of male searching in nature. For this hypothesis to generally

475 favor male mate searching, costs should be systematically higher for females. It has been

476 argued that this is the case when females already suffer high costs associated with some other

477 aspect of reproduction. Greenfield (1981), for instance, suggested that mate-searching by

478 female moths would represent a considerable cost in addition to those already incurred from

479 having to locate larval food resources for oviposition. Nevertheless, modeling shows that this

480 intuitive argument can be surprisingly fragile.

481 The argument for why this should be the case requires considering both immediate and

482 delayed costs of mate-searching effort, and we will first consider immediate costs. Our model

483 assumes that mate-searching increases mortality in either females or males for the duration of

484 time that they search (i.e. once they mate, this immediate threat is removed). The model

485 predicts an asymmetry in the search effort if this immediate increase in mortality is larger for

486 one of the sexes, but this prediction is independent of any other life history difference. If there

487 is, for example, sexual size dimorphism, this may select for searching by the smaller sex if

488 small individuals are better able to avoid predation while moving. But if predation is size-

489 independent, then no sex difference is predicted despite the fact that the large and the small

490 sex otherwise may follow different life histories (e.g. their vulnerability to starvation may

491 differ). Thus, to evaluate if immediate costs support the role of the sex-specific hypothesis as

492 an explanation of male mate searching, one needs to estimate if mortality per unit of searching

493 is larger for females. This is obviously challenging as differences in the actual mobility of the

494 two sexes must be controlled for: instead of comparing current costs of searching, the

495 question is how dangerous searching would be for one sex if it searched equally much as the

496 other. One way to equalize mobility experimentally is to set it to zero: the use of immobile,

497 man-made 'model' animals (e.g. lizards made out of clay, Husak et al. 2006) can control for

498 such biases but extrapolation will be required when applying such data to live, mobile

499 individuals.

500 Keeping this caveat is mind, what is the evidence? Females may fall prey more easily in

501 species with female-biased sexual size dimorphism (e.g. guppies *Poecilia reticulata*:

502 Pocklington and Dill 1995) but, in general, we doubt that there is a general reason why mate

503 searching should be more risky for females across all taxa. If anything, sexually-selected

504 males, because of their bright colors, conspicuous signals, and/or elaborate ornaments, are

505 often argued to fall prey to predators more easily (Gwynne 1987; Götmark 1993; Acharya

506 1995; Koga et al. 2001; Stuart-Fox et al. 2003; Husak et al. 2006). Also note that opportunity

507 costs and any sex-specific biases that are reflected in the OSR should not be included in costs

508 of searching here: these are already accounted for by our model formulation through sex-

509 specific 'time out' values, yet they consistently fail to produce an asymmetry.

510 Immediate mortality costs of mate searching do not preclude other types of costs from

511 occurring. Thus turning to the second question of delayed costs, it is possible that there are

512 costs that extend beyond the immediate mortality threat considered in our model. Mate-

513 searching typically not only consumes resources but also trades off with foraging, and both

514 factors may compromise the condition of an individual and hence have a negative impact on

515 its future reproductive success. Such costs are likely to affect the two sexes unequally. Female

516 fitness is often limited by resources to make eggs, while male fitness is limited by numbers of

517 mates. Thus females should be sensitive to costs of searching if these have an effect on

518 fecundity, and males should be sensitive to costs of searching if these compromise his

519 future mate acquisition ability. Neither type of delayed cost was included in our model, and

520 the sex-specific hypothesis could therefore be resurrected as an explanation of male searching

521 if there is clear evidence that males rarely face a trade-off between current and future

522 reproductive effort (in the form of effort to acquire mates) while females commonly do so.

523 A direct comparison is again challenging, but *a priori* there is no reason to assume that males

524 can perform mate acquisition 'for free', nor is such a supposition supported by the literature.

525 There is by now ample evidence for a trade-off between current and future reproduction in

526 males (e.g. Badyaev and Qvarnström 2002; Hunt et al. 2004): they need resources to develop

527 their sexual displays, and mate-searching prevents foraging that is necessary to maintain

528 condition and ensure future mate acquisition ability. Just how important this can be is evident

529 in species in which only the males in best condition can mate at all: serious mate acquisition

530 effort can be very delayed in such species (e.g. McDonald 1993; Owen-Smith 1993). When

531 both male and female life histories are clearly shaped by delayed costs of current reproductive

532 effort, a general statement that searching costs will be larger for females across various taxa

533 would be definitely premature.

534 Despite our inability to assert that searching is generally costlier for females than for males,

535 an examination of the empirical literature reveals some examples that appear to support the

536 sex-specific cost hypothesis. In fiddler crabs *Uca beebei*, for example, females search only

537 when mate availability is high and plentiful burrows reduce sampling costs (deRivera et al.

538 2003). In California patch butterflies *Chlosyne californica*, easy searching in high density

539 conditions encourages males to abandon their regular 'sit and wait' strategy to one of active

540 search (Alcock 1994). Our model cannot explain such cases by varying multiple mating

541 opportunities through changes in mate encounter rates. Instead, we expect these shifts to arise

542 where variation in population density (or some other environmental factor that influences

543 mate encounter rates) covaries with mate searching costs, while leaving mate encounter rates

544 relatively unchanged (meaning that female mating chances do not vary significantly with

545 mate encounter rates). The easiest imaginable situation is a case where densities vary but are

546 always quite high, as in the fiddler crab example discussed above. Here, mate finding per se is

547 not difficult for females, but sampling several males can be more costly than finding just one,

548 and this cost may decrease with increasing density (see also deRivera 2005).

549 *The ubiquity of male searching most likely reflects the ubiquity of multiple mating*

550 Our second explanation, the *multiple mating hypothesis*, performs consistently better in

551 predicting high searching effort for males and thus appears more robust in terms of correctly

552 predicting the ubiquity of male searching in nature. It predicts an asymmetry in search effort

553 despite the Fisher condition, i.e. the fact that the number of offspring fathered by the male

554 population must equal the number of offspring produced by females, which makes arguments

555 based on high male potential reproductive rates non-trivial (Queller 1997; Kokko and

556 Jennions 2003; Houston and McNamara 2005; Kokko et al. 2006). When there is multiple

557 mating, the Fisher condition does not imply that individual females and males improve their

558 fitness equally much by experiencing one more mating. In our model, another mating will not

559 improve a female's reproductive output at all if she has already mated during the same mating

560 window (Bateman 1948), but another mating by a male will always improve his chances of

561 fathering offspring: thus $S_F \neq S_M$ is possible but only when at least some females mate

562 multiply.

563 The multiple mating hypothesis predicts a shift towards greater mate searching effort by

564 females when mate availability is low. Under these conditions females do not mate with very

565 many males and may fail to find a mate quickly enough to optimize reproduction (Kokko and

566 Mappes 2005). As densities increase, and females are no longer sperm limited, males alone

567 are selected to compete for access to any unfertilized eggs that remain (for an empirical

568 example see Levitan 2004).

569 The multiple mating hypothesis additionally predicts cases where females invest little in

570 searching, but this small investment is very important for mate finding. This is seen, for

571 example, in systems where members of one sex (usually females) produce pheromones to

572 guide the mate searching efforts of the opposite sex (the 'pheromone' case of Fig. 6). Such

573 cases arise where mate finding is very difficult if one sex 'does nothing'. For example, deep

574 sea hatchetfish *Argyropelecus hemigymnus* males attend to olfactory cues that are released by

575 females to facilitate their search efforts (Jumper and Baird 1991). Once again, the effect of

576 sperm competition appears capable of driving shifts in the amount of effort that a female must

577 expend, even if female investment is quite low to begin with (evidence suggest that

578 pheromones are relatively inexpensive to produce: Cardé and Baker 1984). At high density,

579 for example, the need for female gypsy moths *Lymantria dispar* to invest any effort in

580 pheromone emission is made redundant; competition among males is so intense that they will

581 actively search out freshly emerged females even in the absence of any pheromone trails

582 (Cardé and Hagaman 1984).

583 Both of our hypotheses predict possible phylogenetic inertia. One of the sexes can become

584 'trapped' in a searching role if frequency dependence discourages searching in the sex that

585 currently invests little in searching. This can maintain the original roles, even if the

586 environment shifted to favor searching in the other sex. Phylogenetic analyses combined with

587 information on population density could help distinguish between the two hypotheses: inertia

588 should be weaker under the multiple mating than the sex-specific cost hypothesis, and when

589 the inertia breaks, changes from male to female searching should occur in low density

590 conditions according to the multiple mating hypothesis, but in high density according to the

591 sex-specific cost hypothesis.

592 *Further possibilities*

593 In addition to the two different hypotheses discussed above, our models can be used to

594 examine further alternative scenarios. An intriguing possibility is that the search function

595 $f(x,y)$ itself is asymmetrical so that $\partial f/\partial x \neq \partial f/\partial y$ when $x = y$. Such an asymmetry should be

596 rare, as there is no reason why a female that covers an extra distance of a given length,

597 actively searching for a mate, should improve the meeting rate between the sexes any less

598 than a male doing the same. Even pronounced differences in lifestyle, such as e.g.

599 flightlessness in some female insects, will not change this symmetry: these differences are

600 reflected in other parts of the model such as vastly higher costs of moving for females, and

601 should not be doubly accounted for by assuming a poor search outcome *if* the female moved

602 instead of the male. However, an asymmetry in the actual search outcome $f(x,y)$ could arise,

603 for example, if one of the sexes has better vision than the other: extreme examples are extra

604 eyes of male mayflies (Kirschfeld and Wenk 1976) and bibionid flies (Zeil 1983). Such

605 dimorphism would enhance any sex differences in selection pressures (mathematically, $\partial f/\partial y$

606 $> \partial f/\partial x$). However, the extra eyes in these cases are believed to have evolved to enhance the

607 pursuit of females and thus do not qualify as a pre-existing trait that has led to males

608 assuming the greater searching role.

609 Our model was designed to investigate the most basic form of mate searching, where potential

610 mates do not differ in any direct or indirect benefits provided (nor is multiple mating assumed

611 to be detrimental to either sex, but see Arnqvist and Rowe 2005). While this assumption is a

612 necessary first step in a general model of the evolution of mate-location traits, an obvious next

613 step is to incorporate the possibility of mate sampling to improve mate quality (Byers et al.

614 2005; Dunn and Whittingham 2007), perhaps together with costs or benefits of multiple

615 mating. This could potentially increase the prevalence of female searching if mate-search

616 improves mate quality, and provide an additional reason why sex-specific searching patterns

617 can respond to density. For example, the prospects of finding a high quality male may become

618 worthwhile at high density where there are many males to choose from, while at low density

619 such prospects might be too poor to pursue (Kokko and Rankin 2006). This could potentially

620 help to explain why the mate searching behaviors of, for example, the butterfly *Coenonympha*

621 *pamphilus* (Wickman and Jansson 1997) and the California fiddler crab *Uca crenulata*

622 (deRivera 2005) appear to fit the sex-specific cost hypothesis better than the multiple mating

623 hypothesis. In the most complicated scenarios, females gain by choosing mates but also pay

624 costs of mate sampling, both can vary with density, but changing female behavior with

625 density implies that the prevalence of multiple mating varies too. Therefore, while the sex-

626 specific cost and the multiple mating hypothesis do not perform equally well when attempting

627 to explain general patterns, they may have to be considered together (rather than as mutually

628 exclusive alternatives) when considering specific cases.

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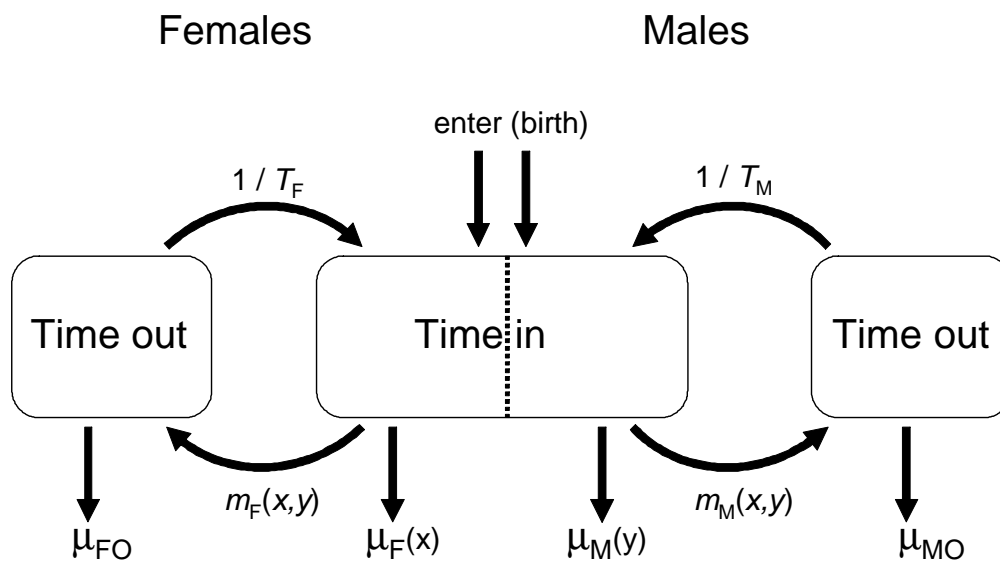794   superposition in Bibionidae (Diptera). J. Comp. Physiol. 150:379-393.

796 Fig. 1 Flow diagram of the model. Females and males encounter each other when they

797 are in 'time in'; after mating, both sexes enter a 'time out' stage, but the length of

798 this can be different for the two sexes. Mating rates can differ between the sexes

799 too, because of a different number of males and females in the 'time in' stage.

800 Fig. 2 Evolutionary trajectories without sperm competition, when evolutionary change

801 per generation is proportional to the LHS of eqs. 5a for females, and 5b for males.

802 The dashed diagonal indicates equal searching by males and females. In (a),

803 selection always favors increased searching effort in the sex that initially searches

804 more. In (b), there is a continuum of neutral equilibria indicated with the heavy

805 solid line, and examples of single equilibria are indicated with dots. Parameters:

806 $T_F = 1$, $T_M = 0.01$, $M = 1$ (though these parameters do not influence solutions as

807 long as there is no sperm competition, see eqs. 5a-b), $g = 2$, $f(x,y) = x+y$, $\mu_{FO} =$

808 $\mu_{MO} = 0.1$, and (a) $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+x^{1.2})$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1\ (1+y^{1.2})$, (b) $\mu_F(x) = 0.1$

809 $(1+x^2)$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1\ (1+y^2)$, (c) $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+x^{2.5})$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1\ (1+y^{2.5})$.

810 Fig. 3 Evolutionary trajectories without sperm competition can become asymmetrical if

811 costs of searching differ between the sexes. Solutions and parameter values are

812 calculated as in figure 2b, but now with a non-linear searching outcome $f(x,y) =$

813 $\sqrt{x+y}$, and (a) equal costs for each sex, $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+x^{1.2})$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1$

814 $(1+y^{1.2})$, or (b) female search cost is 50% higher, $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+1.5x^{1.2})$ and $\mu_M(y)$

815 $= 0.1\ (1+y^{1.2})$.

816 Fig. 4 The Bateman gradients, i.e. the reproductive benefits b_M and b_F for female and

817 males, respectively, from improved mate encounter rates, and the ratio b_M/b_F, for

818   different values of the average number of matings per mating window, N. The

819   decrease in both b_F and b_M with N reflects that each mating becomes less

820   important as a determinant of fitness. However, the decrease in b_F is much

821   steeper, therefore $b_M/b_F > 1$ which implies stronger selection for males to search

822   for mates. Figure is calculated with $g = 1$ and $m_M = 1$. A lower value of m_M (e.g.

823   due to a male-biased OSR) would further exaggerate the difference between b_M

824   and b_F, while g has no effect on b_M/b_F.

825 Fig. 5   Evolutionary trajectories with sperm competition. Solutions and parameter values

826   as in figure 2b, but now the different curves do not correspond to different starting

827   points $\{x,y\}$ but to different values of species-specific mate encounter rate, M. M

828   takes values, from left to right, $M = 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 3, 2, 1, 0.5$, and 0.1. In (a),

829   costs accelerate as in figure 2b: $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+x^2)$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1\ (1+y^2)$. In (b),

830   costs are more linear than in (a): $\mu_F(x) = 0.1\ (1+x^{1.8})$ and $\mu_M(y) = 0.1\ (1+y^{1.8})$.

831   Except for extremely low mate encounter rates in (b), there is a single equilibrium

832   in each case, and males search more than females. At the equilibrium marked with

833   a dot, the value of N becomes (from left to right) (a) 432, 170, 50, 19.9, 7.9, 4.4,

834   2.9, 1.5, 0.78 and 0.19, and (b) 359, 148, 46, 18.5, 7.6, 4.2, 2.8, 1.4, 0.77 and (for

835   the female-searching equilibrium) 0.37. Note that females search almost as much

836   as males when low M limits multiple mating (equilibria with low N).

837 Fig. 6   Evolutionary trajectories with sperm competition, when some activity is required

838   from both sexes before mates can find each other: $f(x,y) = xy$. Other values as in

839   Figure 5a, except that M takes values (from left to right) $M = 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 3,$

840   2, 1, leading to $N = 13.1, 10.8, 7.6, 5.4, 3.6, 2.53, 1.93$ and 1.28. In (a), the raw

841   values of x and y are given, while in (b) investment in mate-searching is graphed

842   as the proportional increase in mortality during 'time in' caused by mate

843   searching, $\mu_F(x)/\mu_F(0)$ and $\mu_M(y)/\mu_M(0)$. When mate encounter rates are high to

844   moderate, females pay extremely low costs for their searching (the 'pheromone'

845   case), while lowest mate encounter rates may make both sexes increase their

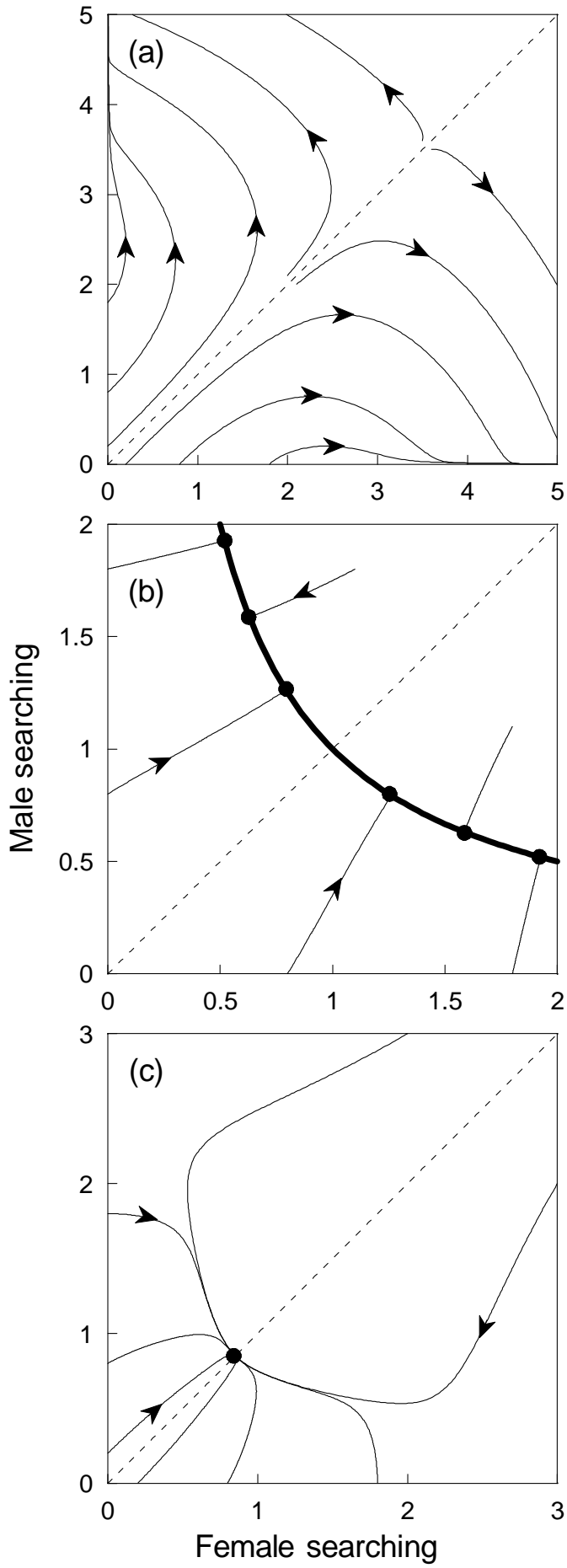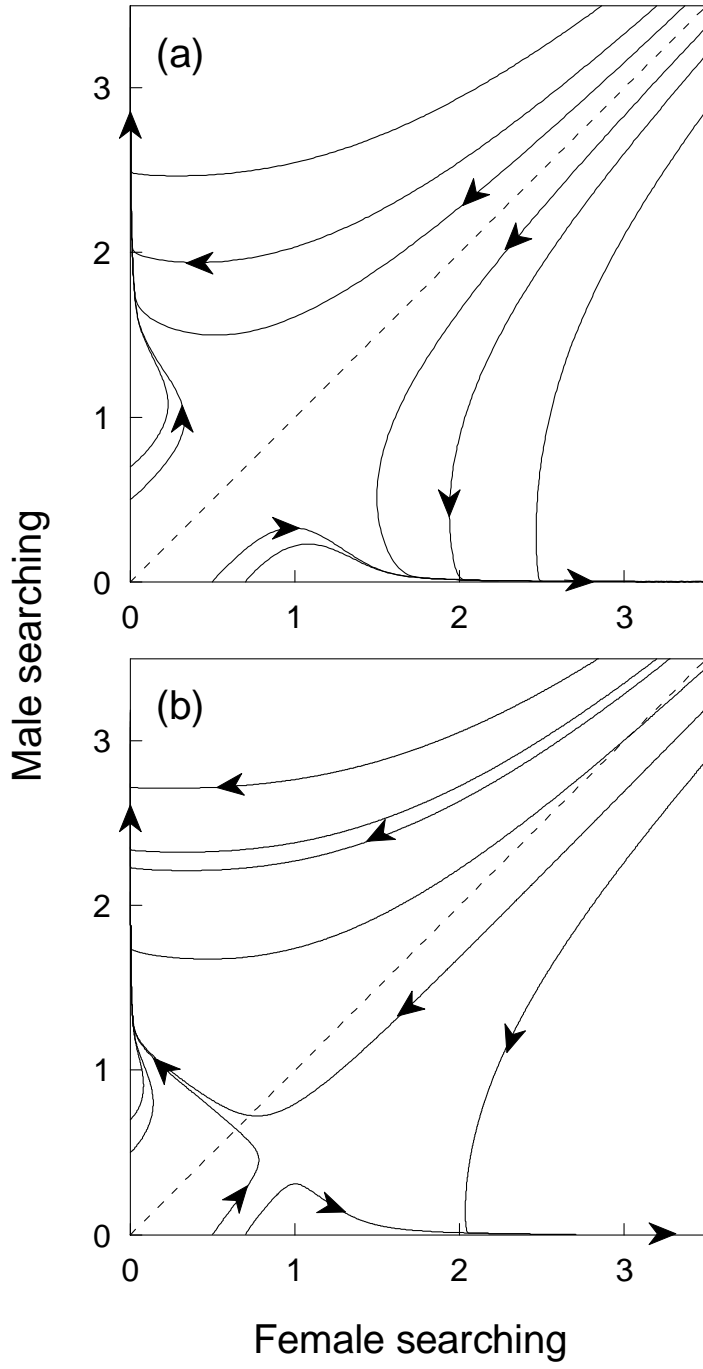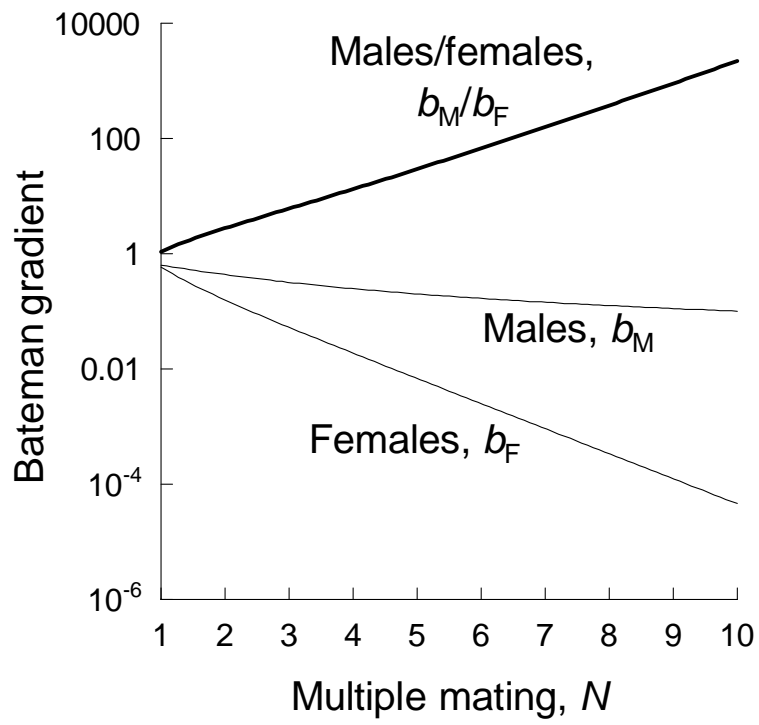846   mortality by 100% or more (i.e. more than halve their survival).
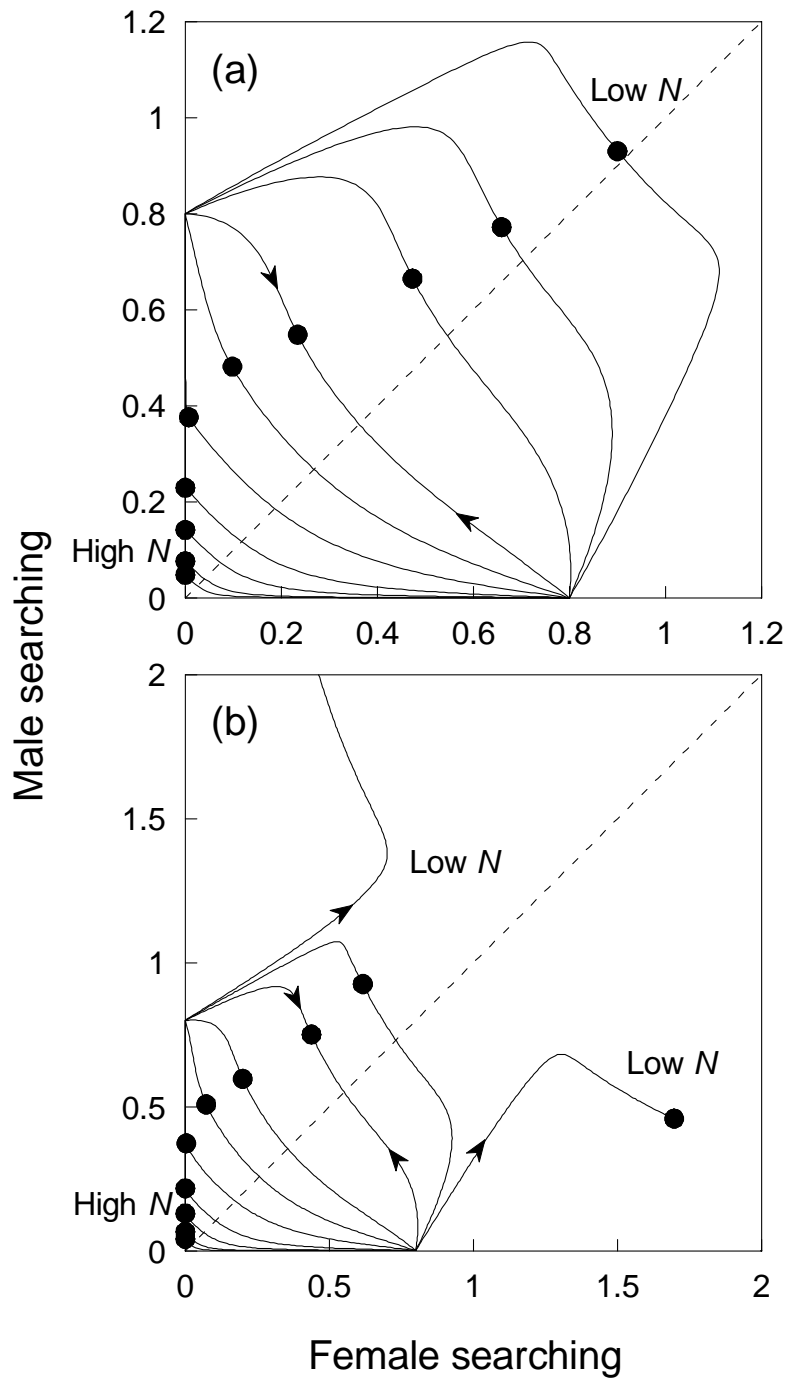
847

848   Fig. 1.

Fig. 2

Female searching

Fig. 3

852 Fig. 4

Fig. 5

Fig. 6

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855