



Sexual selection and the evolution of female ornamentation in pipefishes

Kenyon Mobley

Presenting Author: Kenyon Mobley

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Germany

Sexual selection is a potent evolutionary force responsible for the evolution of extravagant behaviors and morphology seen in many species. Despite nearly 150 years since Darwin first proposed the theory of sexual selection, many aspects of this process are controversial and not well understood. For example, one unresolved facet of sexual selection concerns the link between individual preferences for sexually selected traits and the demonstration of selection on these traits in the wild. I will introduce the topic of sexual selection and how to measure it in wild populations of pipefishes. I will also discuss the evolution of female ornamentation in this group of fishes which shows a striking diversity rivaling those of traditional sex-role species.

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