



Are “sex-roles” in pipefishes and seahorses exceptional?

Ingrid Ahnesjö

Presenting Author: Ingrid Ahnesjö

Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

Our understanding of sexual selection and sex-biased sexual selection is crucially dependent on the diversity found among and within organisms. A common trend is to view male-biased sexual selection as a rule emanating from a common pattern of female care and male mating competition in many animals. The diversity found in pipefishes and seahorses in mating and care patterns, and sexual selection, go beyond such stereotypical views. By including the diversity in mating and care patterns in Syngnathid fishes we will improve our general understanding on how ecology influences the operation of sexual selection in many more animals. There is nothing exceptional about how sexual selection operates in pipefishes and seahorses and therefore we need to be inclusive of the enlightening diversities.

Keywords: Behavioural ecology, Ecology, Evolution