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Sex ratio adjustment and kin discrimination in malaria parasites.

Reece SE, Drew DR, Gardner A

Nature 2008 May 29 **453**(7195):609-14 [abstract on PubMed]
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Selected by | Gabriele Sorci NEW
Evaluated 3 Jun 2008
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Gabriele Sorci Université de Bourgogne, France ECOLOGY Confirmation New Finding	**This is a fascinating article showing that malaria parasites adaptively adjust the sex ratio in multi-genotype infections.** In single-genotype infections, Plasmodium chabaudi parasites produce an excess of females, which fits the predictions of local mate-competition theory. Interestingly, the proportion of males produced increases when six parasite genotypes simultaneously infect a host. Again, this result provides strong support to the predictions issued from theory on sex ratio evolution. These findings also suggest that malaria parasites are able to detect the presence of related and unrelated conspecifics. How they achieve this remains an open question. **Competing interests:** None declared Evaluated 3 Jun 2008 NEW

How to cite this evaluation

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