

Sexual Selection



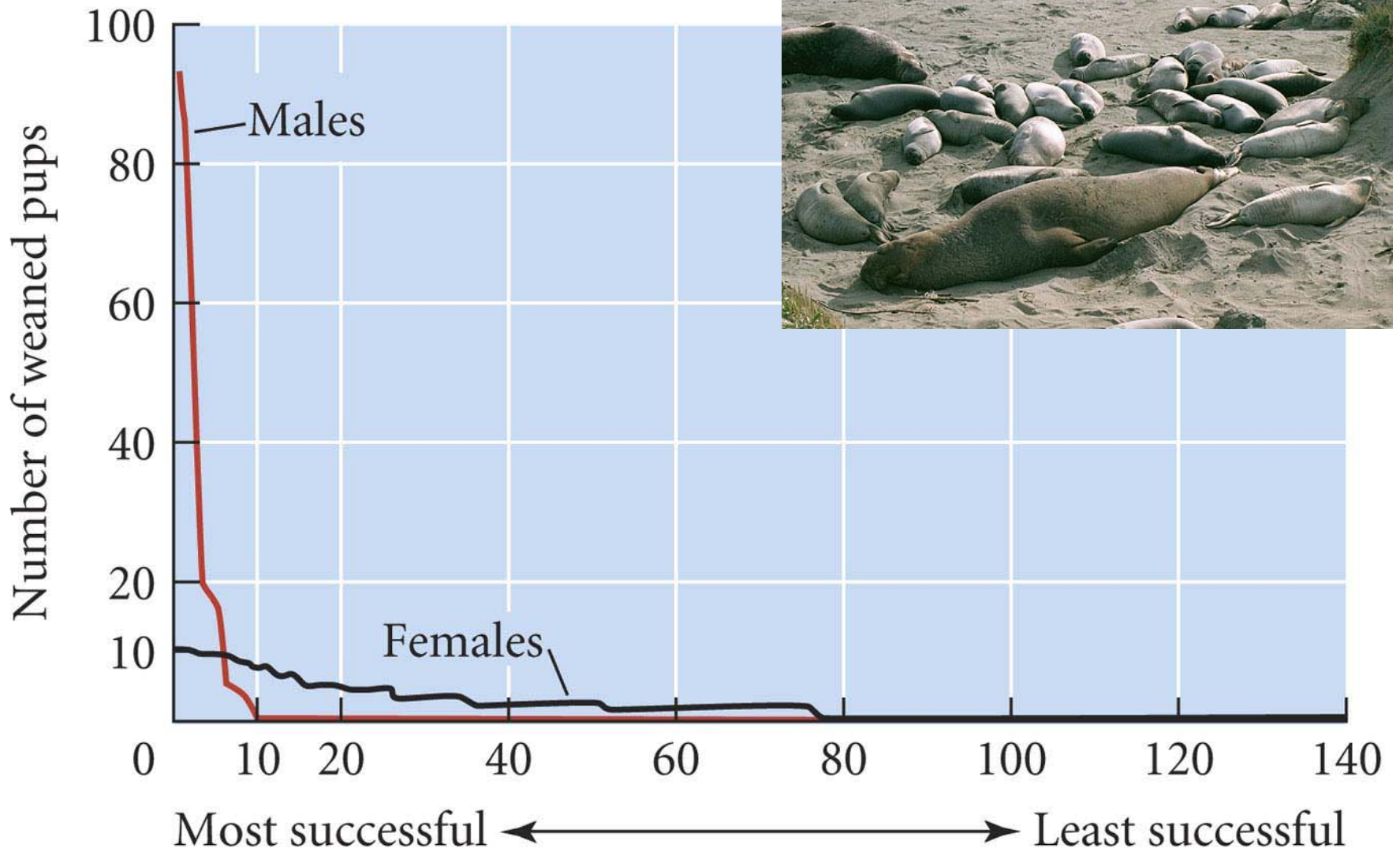
Differences in the sexes

- Morphology
- Behavior
- Sexual Dimorphism
- Natural Selection cannot fully explain sexual selection alone

Sexual Selection Theory

- We can explain these phenomena by considering parental investment.
- Consequences are generally observed as **male competition** and **female choice**.





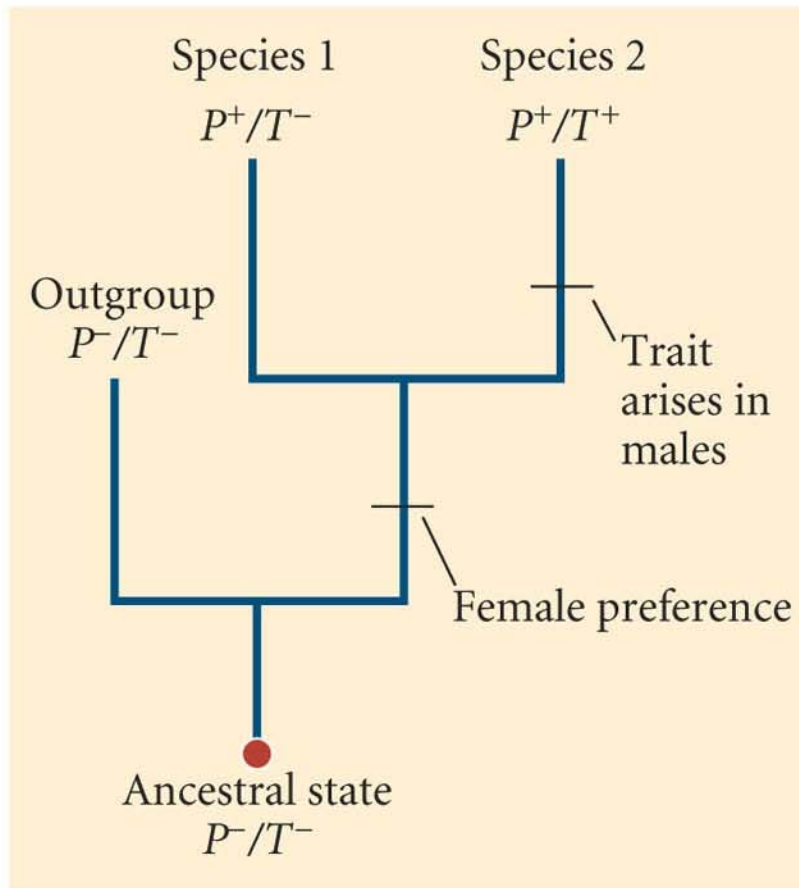
140 seals ranked in order of success

Sexual selection theory in a nutshell:

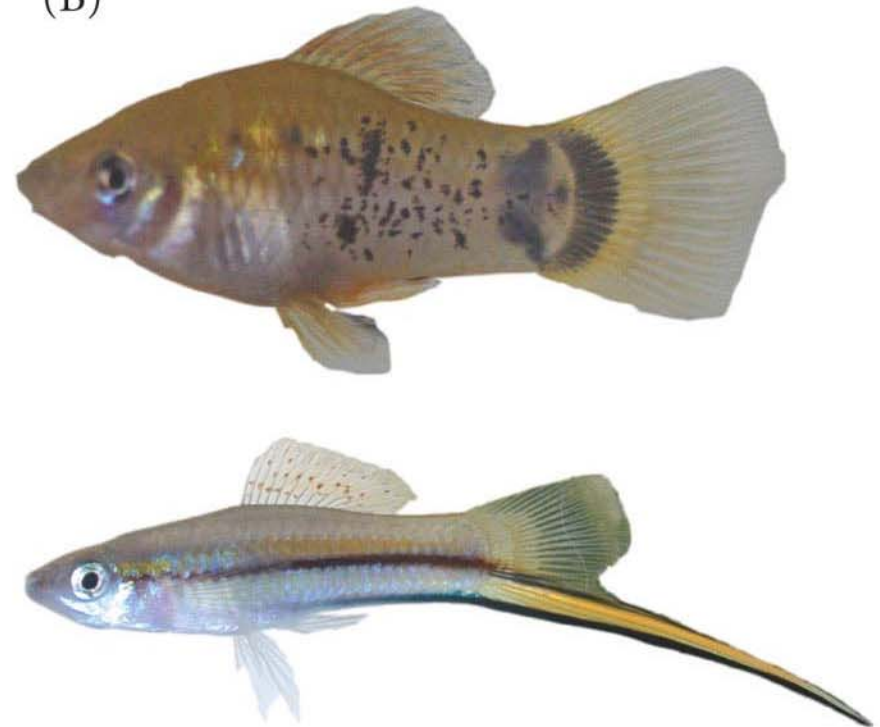
- Males of most species invest less than females in offspring.
- As a result, reproductive success of males is limited by the number of mates.
- For females, reproductive success is influenced more by mate quality.
- Thus, males should compete with each other for mates, and not be very choosy.
- However, females should be selective in choosing a mate.

Evidence supporting sexual selection due to sensory bias in female mate choice

(A)



(B)

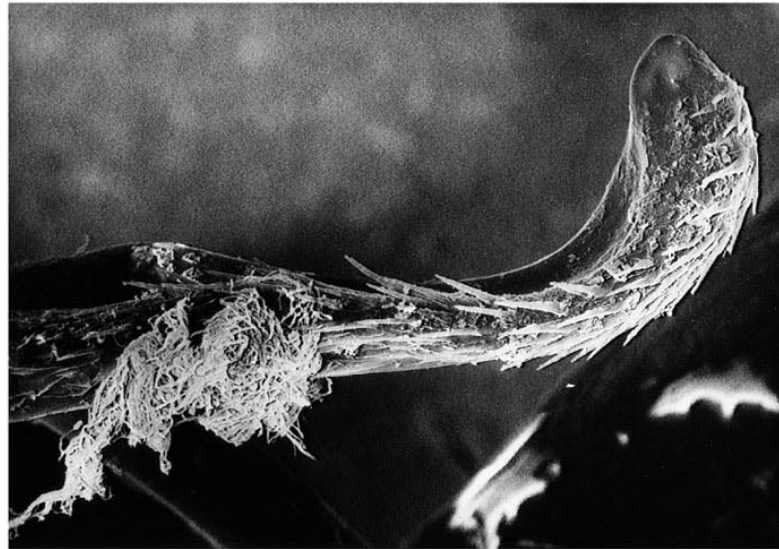


Male-male competition can occur after mating

(A)



(B)



Runaway Sexual Selection



African Widow Birds (Peacocks too)

Diversity in sex roles – Male choice in Pipefish & Seahorses



When Natural Selection & Sexual Selection Collide

