



~ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2010 ~

New directions in sexual selection research: unifying behavioural and genomic approaches

Anouncement & call for abstracts

Conference aim

Sexual selection is a central theme for contemporary evolutionary and behavioural research. Work in this area is focused either on: (i) whole-organism behavioural, life history and physiological studies, or (ii) the use of genomic techniques to understand drivers and mechanisms. These two approaches reflect a paradigm split across the discipline. The aim of the conference is to develop a 'conceptual framework' to demonstrate how the two approaches can be used together, and identify priorities and opportunities for future research.

Outline programme

The conference will take at the University of Bath. The campus is situated next to the Bath World Heritage site in southwest England.

- 1st September: Evening arrival, registration, welcome and conference meal.
- 2nd September: Current directions, methods and opportunities in whole organism sexual selection research.
- 3rd September: Current directions, methods and opportunities in genomics-based sexual selection research.
- 4th September: Synthesis and identification of key areas of future avenues employing integrated behavioural and genomic approaches. Conference ends after lunch.

Keynote Speakers

Our invited speakers will provide an overview of the development and current directions of sexual selection in their fields, and identify gaps and opportunities for future work. Our keynote speakers are:



Tim Birkhead
*Post-copulatory
sexual selection*



Allen Moore
*The genetics of
social behaviour*



Judith Mank
*Relationship between
genome and phenotype*

Call for abstracts

Abstracts for papers (max 200 words) and conference posters are invited covering animal behaviour, morphology, physiology or genomics research in relation to sexual selection. Potential topics are listed below, although we will consider abstracts in additional areas and those reviewing technological development or research gaps. All accepted papers will be published in a conference proceedings. Please send your abstract to the Conference Scientific Committee by **Friday April 23rd**. Email to: Mark@ERT-conservation.co.uk

Topics: sexual selection and social behaviour, sexual conflict, sperm competition, sexual selection in females, ornamentation, extra-pair fertilisation, environmental and spatial influences, ornament genetics, sperm morphology, genomic conflict, developmental evolution of dimorphism, good genes versus direct benefits, male-female coevolution, evolutionary transcriptomics.

Booking your place

For further information about the conference and to book your place online, visit the conference website: www.ert-conservation.co.uk/Conference_home.htm.

There are 200 delegate places at the conference, but only 150 rooms available on the campus. These will be designated on a first-come first-serve basis. We anticipate a large demand, so please book your place as early as possible.

