

Animal Homosexuality

A biological **exuberance** !



Animal homosexuality has mostly been regarded as a taboo topic or at least, as curious or abnormal events from a conventional standpoint. Nevertheless, numerous recent studies have revealed a growing evidence for homosexual behaviours. Neo-Darwinism longtime alleged that male homosexual behaviours chiefly result from the sexual frustration of bachelor males or revealed abnormal behaviours.



In fact, evolution theory predicts that the occurrence of non-adaptive behaviours (*i.e. behaviours with no reproductive effects*) must decrease in a population but homosexuality has been found as casual activities in numerous species. Thus, new theories tried to explain such a behavior :

1. *The aggression hypothesis* argued that homosexual interactions resulted from frustration of bachelors.
2. *Same-sex interactions* could have a social sexual role in dominance.
3. Homosexuality could result from *scarcity* of sexual partners
4. Homosexuality was thought as having a training function initiating future sexual performances (*training hypothesis*)
5. homosexual behaviours should be regarded as cooperative either by maintaining pair bonds in birds *dominance hierarchy/cooperation*
6. Regulation of population dynamics
7. according to the *sneaky male theory*, a male may gain some access to females by being tolerated by another dominant male
8. Homosexuality may result from a biased sex-ratio



9. it could be also argued that homosexuality is a part of the natural repertoire of sexual behaviour



Actually, deliberate exclusive homosexuality in a solitary species such as the European polecat *Mustela putorius* (*free choice hypothesis*, Lodé 2006) apparently serves no adaptive function. Deliberate homosexual behaviour was never documented in other non-social and non-cooperative species, competing for mates and thus addresses crucial evolutionary issues.



in Th Lodé - *La GUERRE DES SEXES* (2006) Eds Odile Jacob .

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Lodé T 2007 Sexual propaganda as a new theory of sexual selection. *Evolutionary Ecology and Ethology Univ Rennes1* <http://evolutionaryecology.fr/gd/Sexual-propaganda.htm>