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**Bending for love: losses and gains of sexual dimorphisms are strictly correlated with changes in the mounting position of sepsid flies (Sepsidae: Diptera).**

Puniamoorthy N, Su KF, Meier R

*BMC Evol Biol* 2008 May 21 **8**(1):155 [[abstract on PubMed](#)]

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**Selected by** | Russell Bonduriansky

Evaluated 28 May 2008

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### Faculty Member

#### Russell Bonduriansky

The University of New South  
Wales, Australia  
ECOLOGY



New Finding

### Comments

**This study forges a rare link between the spectacular morphological diversity of insect secondary sexual traits and behavioural variation among related species.** The authors developed a molecular phylogeny for 33 species of sepsid flies, and carried out studies of male sexual morphologies (recorded in detailed drawings) and mating interactions (captured on video, available as supplementary files) in each species to show that the evolutionary loss of a secondary sexual elaboration on the male foreleg is perfectly correlated with the evolution of a novel mounting behaviour. These findings open a window on an interesting pattern of sexual coevolution. Moreover, in this age of the quick-and-dirty publication explosion, this study demonstrates that thorough, meticulous and exacting work is still worth the effort.

**Competing interests:** None declared

Evaluated 28 May 2008

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## Faculty Comments

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