

# Congress of the European Society for Evolutionary Biology

August 14–19, 2022 Prague Congress Centre

## Book of Abstracts



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Abstract ID: 1460

#### Mitochondrial variant specifically impairs male fertility in seed beetle Acanthoscelides obtectus

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Uniparental inheritance of mitochondria leads to asymmetry of mtDNA evolution because selection acts directly on non-neutral mtDNA polymorphisms only through the female lineage. In other words, natural selection will not recognize any mtDNA mutation which is male harming, but neutral, beneficial, or slightly deleterious for females. Ultimately, non-Mendelian inheritance of mitochondria drives the evolution of male-specific mitochondrial mutation loads, an idea known as mother's curse. Naturally occurring mtDNA mutations that impair male fertility, but have no effects on females, have been recognized as an opportunity for the development of the biocontrol of pest species termed Trojan Female Technique (TFT). Namely, females carrying TFT mutations, and their female descendants, could continuously, over multiple generations, produce males that sire fewer offspring than wild-type counterparts. Although the TFT shows promise as a transgenerational, self-sustaining method, its empirical success hinges on the existence of natural TFT mutations that remain uncharacterized in pest insects. In order to identify and test possible TFT candidates for biological control of seed beetle, a common pest in legume storages, three mtDNA haplotypes found in laboratory lines were expressed alongside one outbred nuclear background. We analyzed the effects of specific mitotypes on female and male life history traits, and found a male-only reduction in fertility in one mito-nuclear combination. Specifically, fertility (but not total fecundity and lifespan) of males carrying specific mtDNA variant was reduced by 35% relative to the controls. Our study provides evidence that intergenomic conflict leads to the existence of male-harming mtDNA mutations that segregate within populations.

Abstract ID: 1237

#### The evolution and genetic mechanism of sex-ratio meiotic drive in Drosophila affinis

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Meiotic drivers are selfish genetic elements that promote their own transmission to the gametes. Sex-ratio (SR) meiotic drive occurs when a selfish genetic element on the X chromosome manipulates gametogenesis to prevent the maturation of Y-bearing sperm in males, resulting in the production of predominant female progeny. The spread of SR meiotic drive can affect host genetic diversity, sex chromosome evolution, and even cause host extinction if it reaches high enough frequency. SR meiotic drivers have evolved independently several times, however, the underlying genetic mechanism is only known in few cases. In this study we use a combination of genomics, transcriptomics,

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