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Context-dependent male mate choice in western mosquitofish

Mate choice evolved under conditions in which matings are costly as a way to conserve energy. Mate choice can be complex, as multiple traits can interact to influence mating behavior. In this study, we measured and compared male mate choice preferences in two populations of the western mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*). We found that in the cold-sourced population, male preference was seen only when the degree of difference between female gravid spots was large. This suggested that variation in male preference in mosquitofish may be due to cognition. We concluded that male preference in mosquitofish is a complex process governed by many interacting factors and recommend future research to further describe the evolution of male choice and its influence on female traits.