



National Symposium on

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Invited Speakers and abstracts of their Talk

VII. Systematics & Evolution

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Title of the talk

“Sexual selection in Insects and its Evolutionary gains”

Abstract

Sexual selection is an evolutionary process, that increase the direct and indirect fitness of an organism by non-random preference of mates based on differential ability of the mates. Sexual selection may be in the form of intrasexual selection and intersexual selection. The former involves competition between the males (usually), while females are passive acceptors or winners as mates. The latter involves display of abilities by the males (usually), while the female inspects and assesses them prior to selection as mates. Traditionally both these mechanisms were believed to take place pre copulation. However, studies indicate that these also take place post copulation. The post copulatory displays of sexual selection involve sperm competition and cryptic female choice. Not only are all these displays fascinating, understanding their evolution and their ecological modulations make this field an interesting one. The chapter deals with these aspects of sexual selection with special reference to insects, as they encase some of the most diverse mechanisms of sexual selection.