

1125-92-206

**Sara M. Clifton\*** (sclifton@u.northwestern.edu), 2145 Sheridan Rd., Office M412, Evanston, IL 60208, and **Rosemary I. Braun** and **Daniel M. Abrams**. *Handicap principle implies emergence of dimorphic ornaments.*

Species spanning the animal kingdom have evolved extravagant and costly ornaments to attract mating partners. Zahavi's handicap principle offers an elegant explanation for this: ornaments signal individual quality, and must be costly to ensure honest signaling, making mate selection more efficient. Here we incorporate the assumptions of the handicap principle into a mathematical model and show that they are sufficient to explain the heretofore puzzling observation of bimodally distributed ornament sizes in a variety of species. (Received August 11, 2016)