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**Sex ratio adjustment and kin discrimination in malaria parasites.**

Reece SE, Drew DR, Gardner A

*Nature* 2008 May 29 **453**(7195):609-14 [[abstract on PubMed](#)][[citations on Google Scholar](#)] [[related articles](#)] [[full text](#)] [[order article](#)]**Selected by** | Gabriele Sorci **NEW**

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**This is a fascinating article showing that malaria parasites adaptively adjust the sex ratio in multi-genotype infections.** In single-genotype infections, *Plasmodium chabaudi* parasites produce an excess of females, which fits the predictions of local mate-competition theory. Interestingly, the proportion of males produced increases when six parasite genotypes simultaneously infect a host. Again, this result provides strong support to the predictions issued from theory on sex ratio evolution. These findings also suggest that malaria parasites are able to detect the presence of related and unrelated conspecifics. How they achieve this remains an open question.

**Competing interests:** None declaredEvaluated 3 Jun 2008 **NEW**[How to cite this evaluation](#)**Faculty Comments****How to cite the Faculty of 1000 Biology evaluation(s) for this paper****1) To cite all the evaluations for this article:**
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