

Abstract

In animal realm, we often meet with body structures that in varying degrees go beyond the limits of their effectiveness and may seem like a burden for its owner rather than a benefit. In case these exaggerated structures are found only with representatives of one sex (we don't think artificial selection applied by humans on their domesticated fauna or sporadic pathological mutations), it is usually not a problem to explain their evolutionary origin through sexual selection. In most of these cases it is sexual selection applied by females on males. The situation is getting complicated, when these traits are present on representatives of both sexes. The search for explanation is less straightforward, and while we are doing it, we must pay thorough attention to the ecology and genetic dispositions of the specific species.

Key words

animals, exaggerated structures, evolution