

*Abstract* Preferences for sexual arousal by overstated dominance and submission in sex is categorized as F65.5, sadomasochism, according to ICD, but this behaviour is called BDSM among the general public. The ground of these preferences could be ultimately biological. These preferences reflect behavioural strategy which enables to gain higher reproductive success. Men and women who were sexually aroused by a submissive partner had more male relatives than men and women with other preferences. Contrary to the women, the dominant men reported themselves as more attractive. Women who were aroused by a higher-ranking partner considered themselves more attractive. Sons of couples in which was hierarchical disparity had more siblings than sons of “equal” couples or couples with no hierarchical disparity. Daughters of hierarchically disparate couples had more brothers than daughters of “both dominant” partners. Concurrently, number and gender of offspring as well as self-reported attractiveness are likely to be criteria of the reproductive success in humans. It is also interesting that hierarchically disparate couples, without regard to gender of higher-ranking partner, reached higher reproductive success than “equal” couples. Individuals who preferred higher- or lower-ranking partner were also aroused by hierarchical disparity. Therefore, the preference for higher- or lower-ranking partner who serves as a trigger of sexual arousal could be the reproductive strategy. Among urban young people, the preference for social hierarchy was not correlated to the preference for bondage, but the preference for hierarchical disparity in sex, and thus the phenomenon of BDSM could reflect not only submissive and dominant reproductive strategy, but also other strategies. Nonetheless, consensual BDSM can be seen as an adaptive behaviour which stems from the natural reproductive strategy and that would explain the general popularity of moderate forms of BDSM.

Accessibility of sexually explicit materials (SEM), which had been banned in Czech Republic before 1989, did not increase the number of rapes and other sexual assaults. The number of sexual abuses and less serious unlawful actions even decreased. It can be assumed that availability of SEM rather decreases than increases the incidence of sex crimes.

This work contains basic and extended information about persons who prefer BDSM. The specialists should be aware of issues and risks that these persons meet in relationships and communities. This work also indicates that the ability to perform consensual BDSM protects from sexually motivated unlawful actions and abuses. Therefore, our society should improve the access to the factual information and not stigmatize persons with these preferences. In the context of my observations, BDSM could be viewed as a form of alternative sexual behaviour, similar to homosexuality.