

The authors have done a good job addressing my previous concerns. The revised version flows more nicely and brings out both the new information and the theoretical questions they raise. I think it will be a useful contribution to the literature on mite ecology and the phenomenon of local mate competition in general. I have only simple corrections; they are easy to correct, but I think important in ensuring clarity of meaning.

L144: change "ensures" to "ensured"

L150: change "used as" to "used, because"

L162: change "are" to "were"

Figure S1: My apologies, I missed this figure in the first review.

L204: change to "females that mated"

L205: change to "females that mated"

L214: change "haphazardly" to "arbitrarily"; and change "their" to "the female's"

L216: change "their" to "the female's"

L217: change "measured" to "determined"

L218: change "mates" to "pairs"; and change "sib-mating" to "sibling pairs"

L221: change "all analyses" to "each female parent"

L223: delete "for females"

L240-241: change "this will correspond to" to "this corresponds to"

L250: change "effect and" to "effect, and"; and change "mother, and" to "mother and"

L255-261: change to "...mean ( $\pm$  SE) offspring per female was not affected by the intensity of LMC in current ( $19.01 \pm 1.630$  for high LMC;  $20.16 \pm 0.920$  for low LMC;  $F_{1,32} = 2.37$ ,  $p = 0.1335$ ), or by relatedness between mates ( $14.54 \pm 1.088$  for sib-mated;  $16.42 \pm 0.934$  for unrelated;  $F_{1,21} = 2.95$ ,  $p = 0.1005$ )."

L267: here and anywhere else, change "p-value" to "p"

L268: change "of" to "by"

L291: change "laid" to "produced"

L291: change "emerged as adults" to "developed to adulthood"

L297: change to "beneficial for males to produce"

L298: delete "for males" (moved to line 297)

L302: "reluctant" sounds anthropomorphic. Essentially, there is no selective advantage to females that respond to male cues. Or, females that respond to male cues may be at a selective disadvantage compared to those that do not.

L324: move the citations "(Wrensch & Young, 1978; Roeder, 1992)" to follow immediately after "controlled"

L324: change to "which we did control in..."

L328: change "infected" to "infested"

L330: delete "and"

L330: change "may be not" to "may not have been"

L335: 2011a or b?

L342 & 345: delete "have been shown to"

L350: change "influences the offspring" to "influences offspring"

L350-353: change to "influences the offspring sex ratio. For example, female mice produce...(Edwards et al., 2016), and paternal..."

L351: change "bias" to "biased"

L353: change "jacky dragons" to "a lizard"

L353: is paternal incubation temperature a maternal (L348) effect? Could change "maternal" to "parental" in L348.

L362: change "can" to "could"

L383: change "result" to "conclusion"

L385: add comma after "Why"

L386: change "over" to "rather than"; and change "alter" to "adjust"

L387: "maladaptive" seems too strong. Would "nonadaptive" be better? Maladaptive suggests that selection would be occurring against the observed response; but apparently it must not be maladaptive because it is still observed.

L389: change to "might be adaptive"

L391: change "for" to "allowing"

L396: change "shows" to "showed"

L396: change to "...size of a leaf. This is the patch size we used."

L401: change "might" to "may"