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28 Aug 2008 04:08 AM

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Halaman Depan ▶ [warta/isinews](#)

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username

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Peneliti/Dosen IPB

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Pengabdian Kepada
Masyarakat

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Statistik

Kerjasama

Publikasi

Berita

Download

FAQ

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How 'Secondary' Sex Characters Can Drive The Origin Of Species

26 Ags 2008 07:57

ScienceDaily — The ostentatious, sometimes bizarre qualities that improve a creature's chances of finding a mate may also drive the reproductive separation of populations and the evolution of new species, say two Indiana University Bloomington biologists.

In the September 2008 issue of *Evolution* (now online), Armin Moczek and Harald Parzer examine males from four geographically separated populations of the horned beetle species *Onthophagus taurus*. The beetles have diverged significantly in the size of the male copulatory organ, and natural selection operating on the other end of the animal -- horns atop the beetles' heads -- seems to be driving it.

"Biologists have known that in these beetles there is an investment trade-off between secondary sexual characters and primary sexual characters," Moczek said. "As horns get bigger, copulatory organs get smaller, or vice versa. What was not known was how frequently and how fast this can occur in nature, and whether this can drive the evolution of new species."

Structures directly involved in mating are known as primary sexual characters, whereas combat structures like horns -- or seductive attributes like a cardinal's vibrant plumage or a bullfrog's deeply resonant baritone -- are known as secondary sexual characters.

Sumber : Science Daily
Informasi lengkap dapat diakses di :
<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/08/080825103553.htm>

<< kembali ke index Warta Penelitian dan Pengabdian Masyarakat

Agustus 2008

S	S	R	K	J	S	M
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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tgl : 16 Ags 2008
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Dr. Edwarsyah :
Yth. Dewan Guru Besar IPB sy alumni Keluarga Besar IPB, jika buku Pemikiran Guru Besar IPB

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