

## **Caring is sexy: Females of *Hyalinobatrachium valerioi* prefer males with clutches**

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**Abstract:** In many animal mating systems, females prefer to mate with males that feature certain morphological or behavioral traits. However, in species where males provide parental care, it is still relatively unknown whether females also evaluate male parental performance when selecting between suitable mating partners. In this study, we assessed male mating success in the glass frog *Hyalinobatrachium valerioi*. Males take care of the eggs and they stay with clutches until they hatch, while females leave immediately after oviposition. Previous studies suggest that females prefer males with multiple clutches. Here, we aimed to test this hypothesis and assess whether they also take into account the level of care. For 62 days during the peak of their breeding season (Sept-Nov of 2021), we conducted night and morning surveys at Quebrada Negra, Costa Rica. We recorded individuals' positions on a digital map, took pictures for individual identification, and assessed the number of current clutches and their parental behavior. In total, we sampled 102 individuals, 43 males, and 54 females. We combined behavioural observations, GIS, parentage, and statistical analysis to get deeper insights into individuals' movement and behavior. We found that the likelihood of getting a new clutch on a given night is bigger in males that were present in the oviposition site the previous night, that call and that already have clutches.