**Effect of Female Mating Status on Male Willingness to Fight in the noble false widow spider**

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Fighting in contests between males to secure mating opportunities is a costly endeavour, especially in polygynandrous species, thus males may alter the effort they invest into fighting for mates based on several factors. One of those factors is their motivation to mate with a female. Previously, we demonstrated that the mating status of a male could affect their motivation to fight with other males for mating opportunities, by showing that unmated males fight more than mated males in contests. Here, we tested if the mating status of a female could also affect a male’s motivation to mate, and therefore their willingness to fight. This is because mating with recently mated females may be less valuable to males due to the risks of sperm competition. We placed two unmated *Steatoda nobilis* males, matched in age and mass, in either an unmated or mated female’s web, and recorded the interactions. In trials with mated females, we observed less fighting between males and fewer male mating attempts, than with unmated females, thus indicating male choosiness. We conclude that a male’s reduced willingness to fight for mated females may be a strategy to avoid injury and to preserve energy for other mating opportunities.