

Discussion questions from Chapter 13

1. What is the Shaw-Mohler expression? What are the assumptions of the model? How can it be useful in understanding sex ratios?
2. What were the assumptions of Trivers and Willard's (1973) hypothesis concerning a mother's condition and the sex of the offspring they produce?
3. Why would temperature affect the sex ratio of some species?
4. Why is there an extreme bias for females in many species of insects? What is the LMC model and how does this relate to the female biased sex ratio?

Discussion questions for Dawson & Ehleringer

1. Why are there differences in the occurrence of male and female box-elder along a moisture gradient?
2. How did the authors establish that the sex ratio observed along the moisture gradient was due to fitness differences in response to water availability?
3. In what ways do males and females differ in their physiology?
4. In what ways do these physiological differences result in the observed differences in the sex ratio along the moisture gradient?