

Re: Evolution and Love

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-12/msg00014.html>

- *From:* "Kartik Rajan" <rajan.kartik@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 1 Dec 2005 13:16:39 -0500 (EST)
-

The choice of polygamy vs monogamy in species may be based on group dynamics in a particular species, based on their habitat, diet etc.

Polygamy as an evolutionary strategy has the advantage that it allows individuals to spread their genes in a large number of offspring. Such individuals store their 'eggs' in a number of 'baskets' and pass their genes on to the next generation by virtue of numbers.

In monogamous species, the individuals of both sexes contribute more or less equally in bringing up their offspring. The males parent less offspring and store all their eggs in one basket so to speak. They invest considerably more in each offspring.

Some believe, love is an evolutionary adaptation that ensures that in monogamous species both individuals, stay together. This ensures that their offspring are adequately cared for till they mature.

Monogamy is not a universal trait though, it exists in species where it offers an advantage over polygamy based on their surroundings, behaviour, diet etc.

I don't know if anyone has actually checked if polygamous animals 'experience' feelings of love, but they probably don't as love is most likely characteristic of pair bonding monogamous species.

Kartik Rajan

• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ ***Re: Evolution and Love***

◇ *From:* William Morse

◆ ***Re: Evolution and Love***

◇ *From:* Anthony Cerrato

• Prev by Date: ***Re: Behavioral Genetics: A pseudo science or real scientific discipline***

• Next by Date: ***Re: Group selected altruism – (was: Hamilton's rule)***

• Previous by thread: ***Re: Evolution and Love***

• Next by thread: ***Re: Evolution and Love***

• Index(es):

◆ ***Date***

◆ ***Thread***