

Re: Evolution and Love

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.bio.evolution/2005-12/msg00027.html>

- *From:* "Anthony Cerrato" <tcerrato@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 2 Dec 2005 12:43:06 -0500 (EST)
-

"Kartik Rajan" <rajan.kartik@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
[news:dmmem7\\$2ud5\\$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:dmmem7$2ud5$1@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)
> The choice of polygamy vs monogamy in species may be based
on group
> dynamics in a particular species, based on their habitat,
diet etc.

[snippage]

- > I dont know if anyone has actually checked if polygamous
animals
- > 'experience' feelings of love, but they probably dont as
love is most
- > likely characteristic of pair bonding monogamous species.
- > Kartik Rajan

I also don't know if there is any experimental evidence one way or the other on this, but I strongly suspect love is not restricted to pair bonding monogamous species. (Incidentally, though I am not a worker in the bio-evo, or even, bio-fields alone, I also doubt there are such things as exclusively monogamous species, but rather just a universal continuum from mono- to polygamous for all species, with only a few species always near the lower mono-end--this is not really relevant to my argument here though.)

There is much evidence now that feelings/emotions of "romance" and "love" in humans are purely (bio)chemical. It is well known that oxytocin (the "cuddle chemical,") a hormone produced in the hypothalamus, is integral in initiating romantic attraction between people. Oxytocin is also necessary for milk production and nursing. Typical ref.: <http://www.oxytocin.org/oxytoc/>

More recently, there have been newer studies on the purported "love" neurotrophin prototype, NGF (Nerve Growth Factors.) Typical ref.:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/4478040.stm>

This may have a slightly longer lasting effect than oxytocin, eventually declining after about a year. There are undoubtedly many other such chemicals with varying strengths and periods of action, as well as other, biological effects related to attraction/romance/love, in addition to unrelated effects.

Such deterministic effects of chemicals on the behavior of animals however would indicate to me that sexual attraction need not be limited to pair-bonding. Quite the opposite in fact; I would guess that it is a biological imperative characteristic of all mating practices. Just as an aside, my own very limited (and unsuccessful :)) experience with the opposite sex, and a great deal of the anecdotal romantic poetry I have read, would indicate humans can easily fall in love with two, or even more, women at exactly the same time—even, deeply! :) ...tonyC

• **References:**

◆ **Re: Evolution and Love**

◇ *From:* Kartik Rajan

- Prev by Date: **Re: Article: Precision Extinction – Eradicating a species when you want to isn't that easy**
- Next by Date: **Re: Interrelation between Sex and Death**
- Previous by thread: **Re: Evolution and Love**
- Next by thread: **Re: Evolution and Love**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **Date**
 - ◆ **Thread**