

CHOICE

CURRENT REVIEWS FOR ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

A publication of the Association of College and Research Libraries
A division of the American Library Association
Editorial Offices: 575 Main Street, Suite 300, Middletown, CT 06457-3445
Phone: (860) 347-6933 Fax: (860) 704-0465
www.choicemag.org

June 2010 Vol. 47 No. 10

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Biology - Zoology

Andrew DeSio Publicity Manager
Princeton University Press
41 William St

Princeton, NJ 08540-5237

The following review appeared in the June 2010 issue of CHOICE:

47-5656 QH481 2009-14756 CIP
West, Stuart A. **Sex allocation.** Princeton, 2009. 466p bibl index afp (Monographs in population biology, 44) ISBN 9780691089638, \$95.50; ISBN 9780691089645 pbk, \$45.00

Understanding mating strategies and the allocation of resources to male versus female reproduction has long been a major goal of evolutionary studies. In this comprehensive synthesis, West (Univ. of Oxford, UK) makes several important contributions to the field of evolutionary biology. First, the author unifies the theoretical and empirical literature on sex allocation with a critical assessment of how well the available data match existing predictions. Second, he considers the theory for equal investment in the sexes and examines the consequences of competitive and cooperative interactions between relatives. Next, West describes sex ratio theory and applies the theory to population-level effects among diverse taxa; he also addresses the consequences of population perturbations in species where generations overlap. Finally, he describes situations where there is conflict in sex allocation. This overview concludes with more general implications of sex allocation research. Because the work primarily focuses on how natural selection shapes sex allocation for given sex determination systems, sex allocation is proven an important phenomenon for studying adaptation. This thorough conceptual perspective, blending theory and data, summarizes sex allocation theory and how different areas are applied to different organisms. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Graduate students and above. -- R. A. Delgado Jr., University of Southern California