

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910450088803321
Autore	Zuk M (Marlene)
Titolo	Sexual selections [[electronic resource]] : what we can and can't learn about sex from animals / / Marlene Zuk
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berkeley, : University of California Press, c2002
ISBN	1-282-35781-6 1-59734-894-5 0-520-93767-8 9786612357817
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (252 p.)
Classificazione	CR 6000
Disciplina	591.56/2
Soggetti	Sexual behavior in animals Animal behavior Electronic books.
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Note on species names -- Introduction: An Ode To Witlessness -- PART ONE. Sexual Stereotypes and the Biases That Bind -- PART TWO. Unnatural Myths -- PART THREE. Human Evolutionary Perspectives -- Selected Readings -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Scientific discoveries about the animal kingdom fuel ideological battles on many fronts, especially battles about sex and gender. We now know that male marmosets help take care of their offspring. Is this heartening news for today's stay-at-home dads? Recent studies show that many female birds once thought to be monogamous actually have chicks that are fathered outside the primary breeding pair. Does this information spell doom for traditional marriages? And bonobo apes take part in female-female sexual encounters. Does this mean that human homosexuality is natural? This highly provocative book clearly shows that these are the wrong kinds of questions to ask about animal behavior. Marlene Zuk, a respected biologist and a feminist, gives an eye-opening tour of some of the latest developments in our knowledge of animal sexuality and evolutionary biology. Sexual Selections exposes

the anthropomorphism and gender politics that have colored our understanding of the natural world and shows how feminism can help move us away from our ideological biases. As she tells many amazing stories about animal behavior--whether of birds and apes or of rats and cockroaches--Zuk takes us to the places where our ideas about nature, gender, and culture collide. Writing in an engaging, conversational style, she discusses such politically charged topics as motherhood, the genetic basis for adultery, the female orgasm, menstruation, and homosexuality. She shows how feminism can give us the tools to examine sensitive issues such as these and to enhance our understanding of the natural world if we avoid using research to champion a feminist agenda and avoid using animals as ideological weapons. Zuk passionately asks us to learn to see the animal world on its own terms, with its splendid array of diversity and variation. This knowledge will give us a better understanding of animals and can ultimately change our assumptions about what is natural, normal, and even possible.
