

Animal Choruses Emerge from Receiver Psychology

(A Tale of Two Synchronies)

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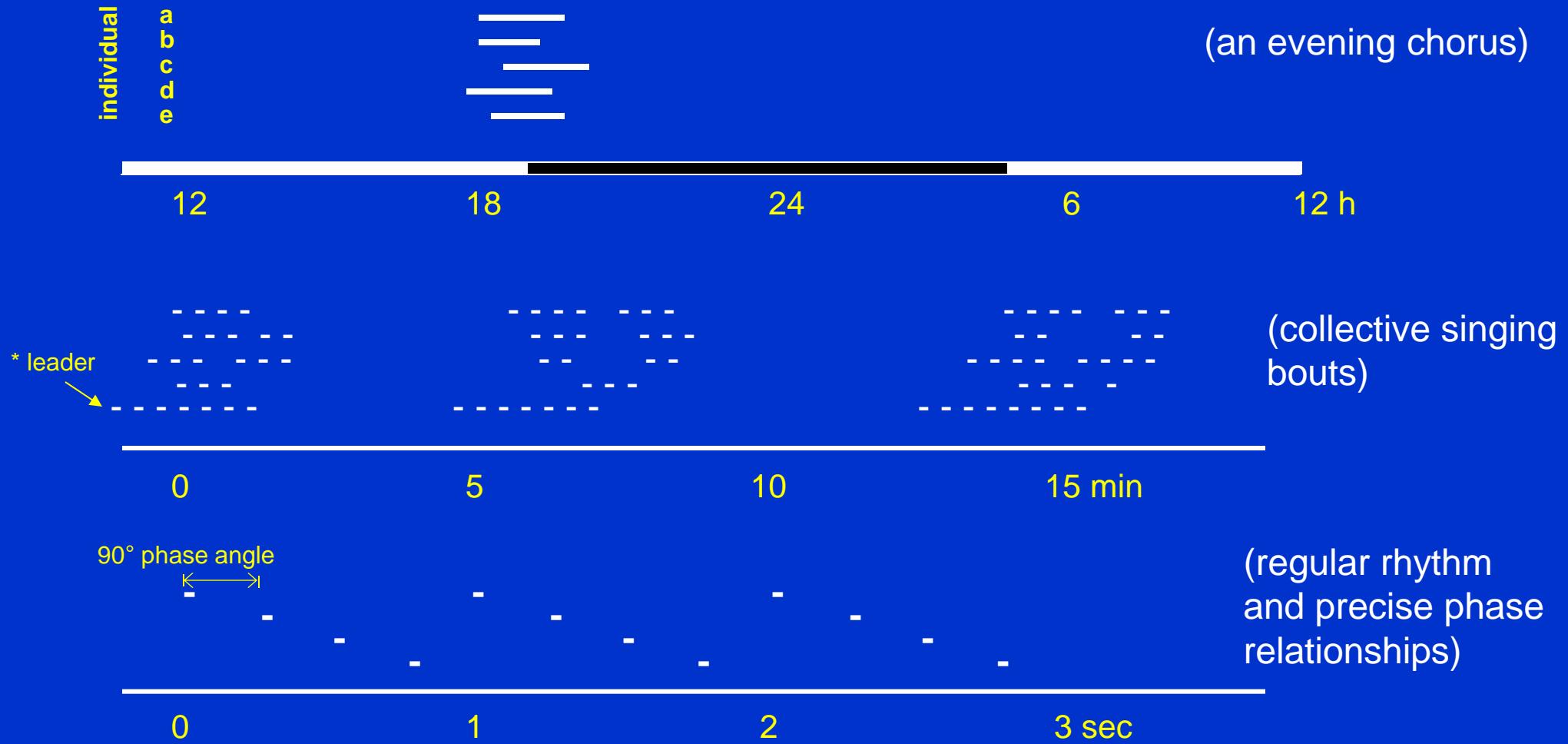


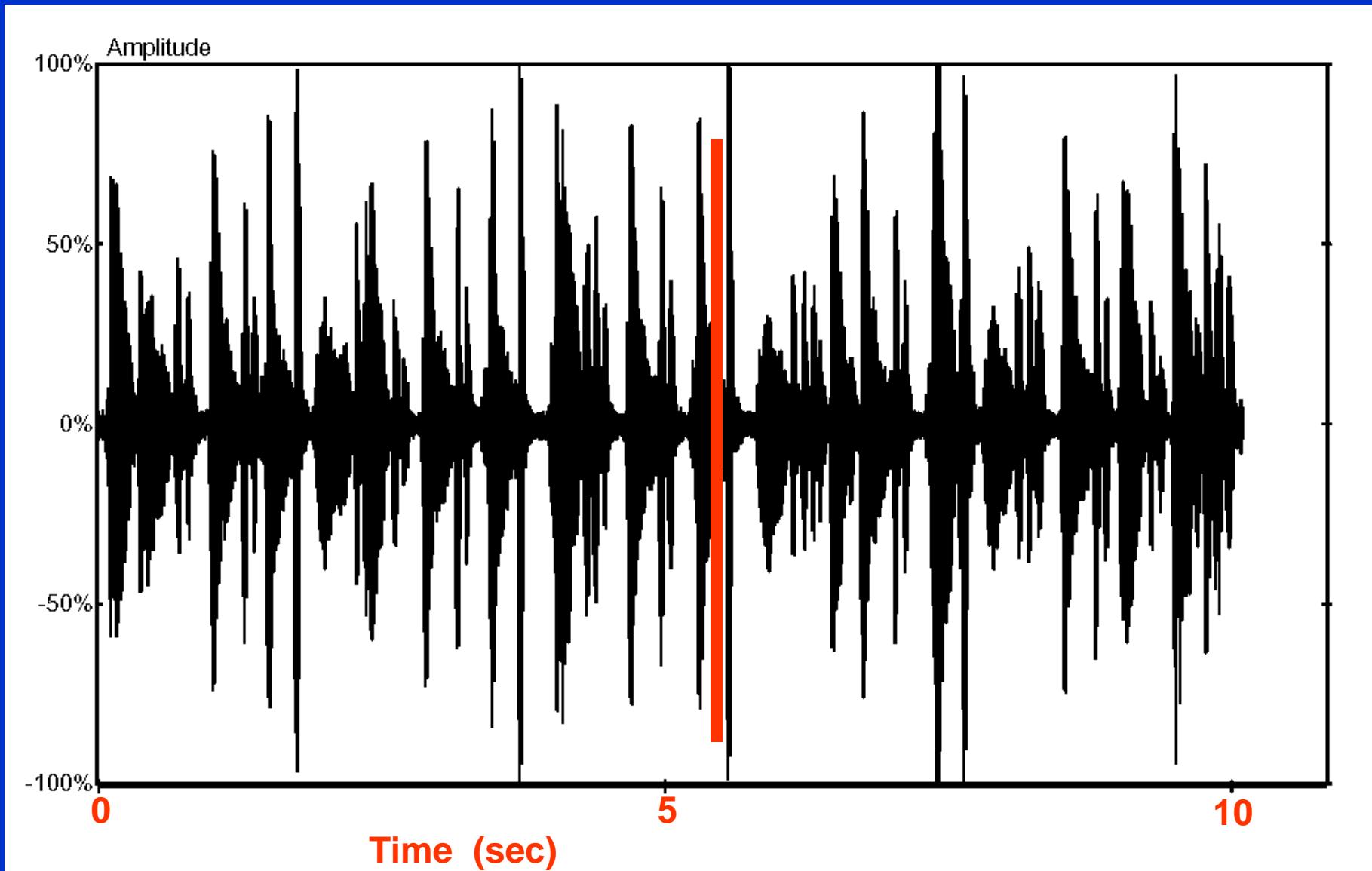
Labex CeMEB
Mediterranean Center for
Environment and Biodiversity



What is an animal chorus ? (It's about time)

Temporal adjustments in broadcasting at three levels of precision :

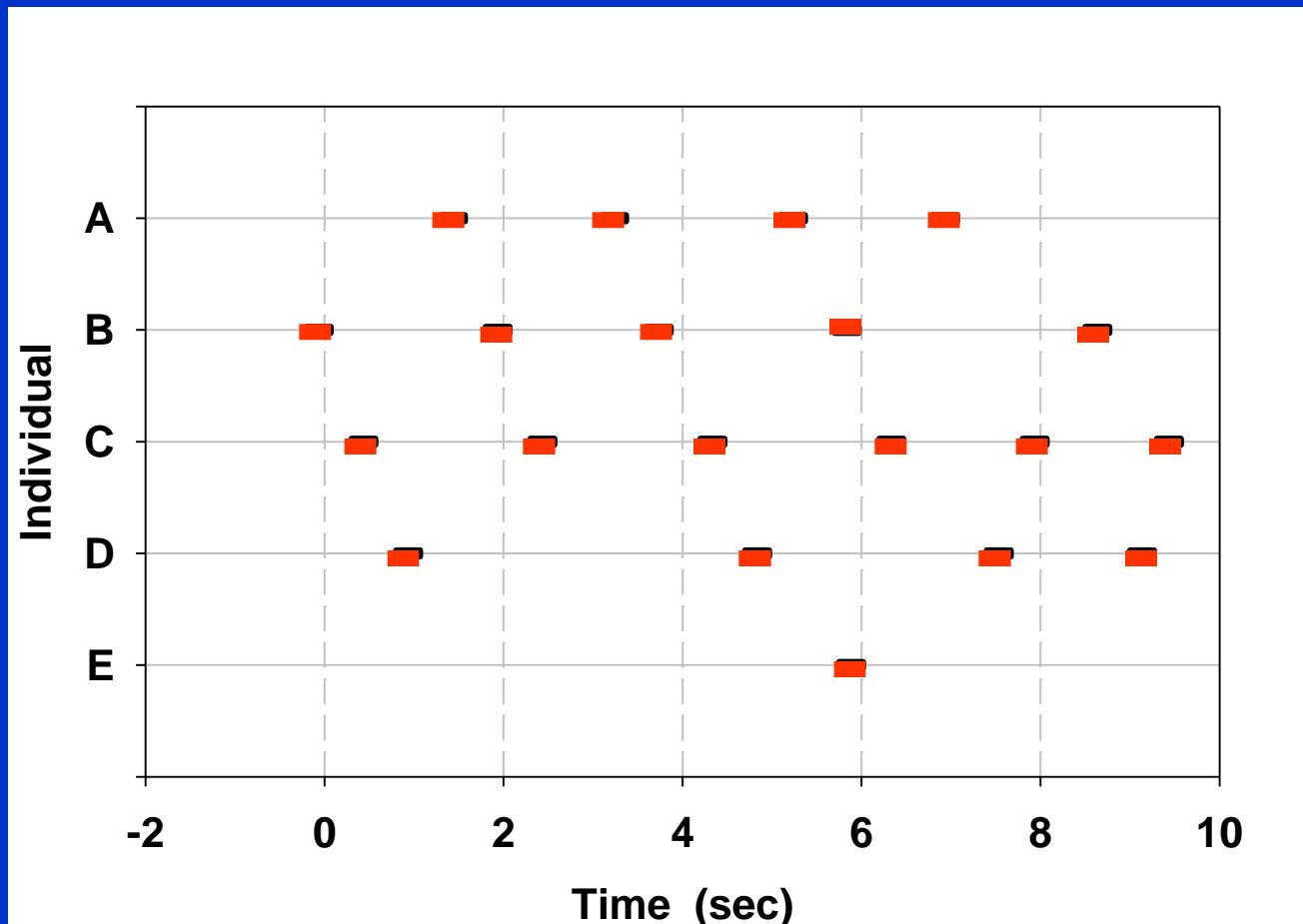




Physalaemus pustulosus (Túngara frog; Anura: Leptodactylidae);
5 Male Chorus

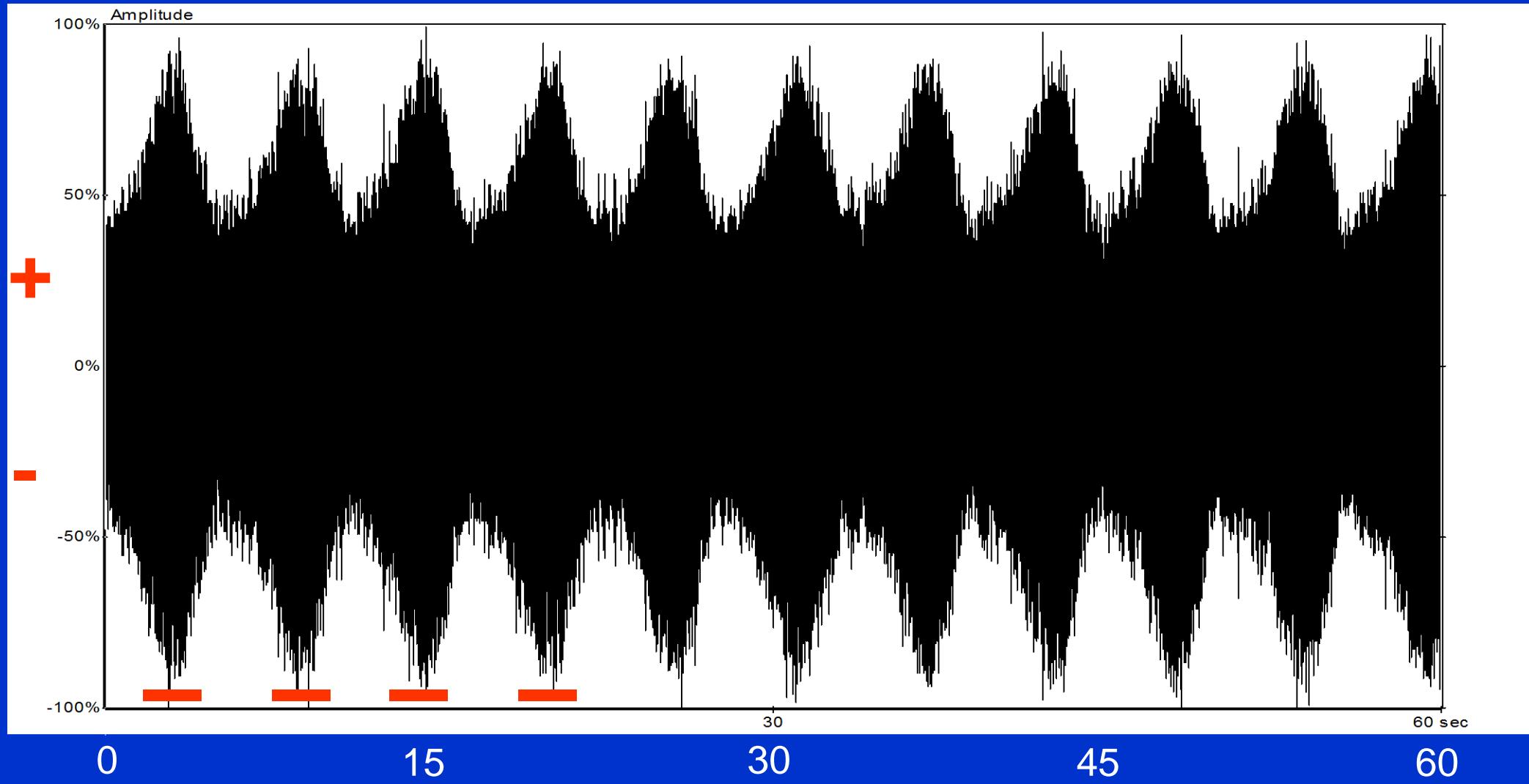


Physalaemus pustulosus (Túngara frog; Anura: Leptodactylidae);
5 Male Chorus



Frogs have rules





Magicicada cassini (Cicadidae);
Periodical Cicada (17-year)
Synchronous Chorus; Brood IV; June
1998; Douglas Co., Kansas

Pteroptyx tener (Lampyridae);
Synchronous fireflies of the
Indo-Malayan Region



Kumari Nallabumar 2002



Strogatz & Stewart 1993



synchronicity - sample shots - 2015

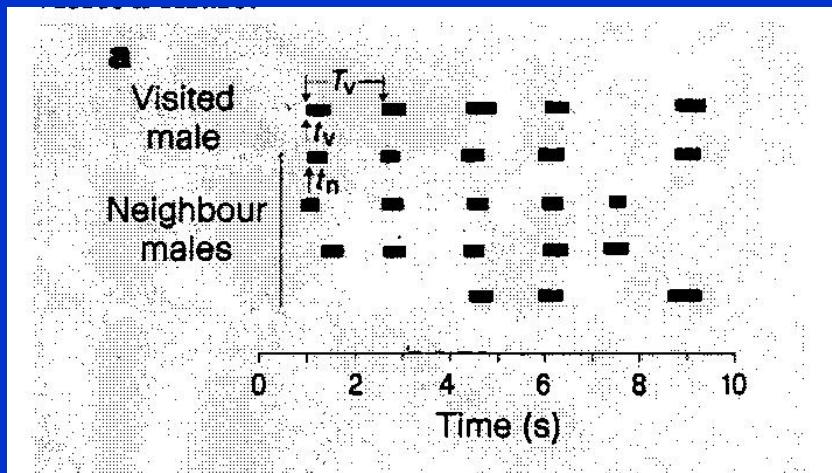
© robin meier, andre gwerder, dop: nikolai zhaludovich

Uca annulipes

(Crustacea: Ocypodidae);

Western Indo-Pacific;

Synchronized waving

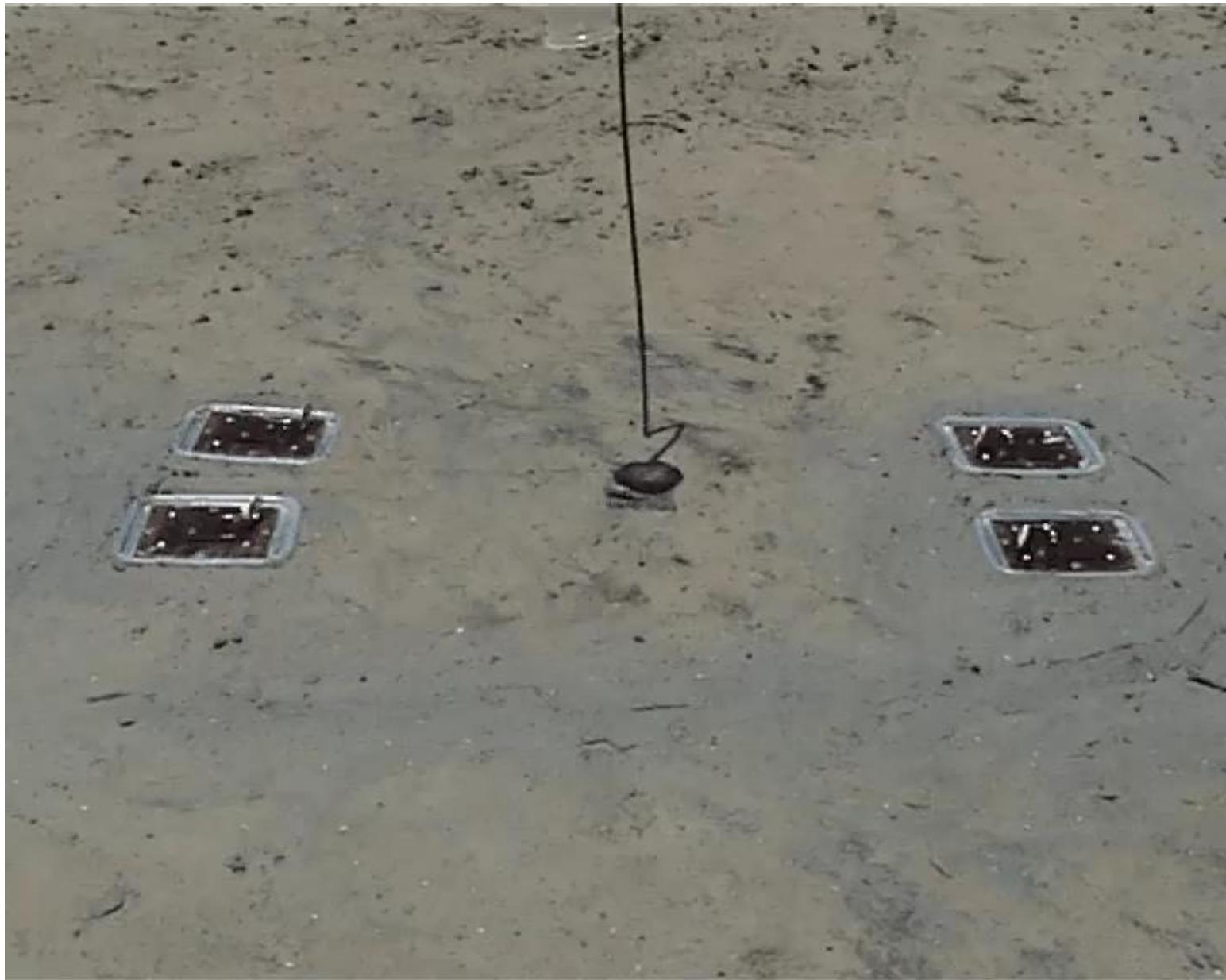


Synchronized courtship in fiddler crabs;

Backwell et al. 1998







Female pheromonal chorusing in an arctiid moth, *Utetheisa ornatrix*

Hangkyo Lim^a and Michael D. Greenfield^{a,b}

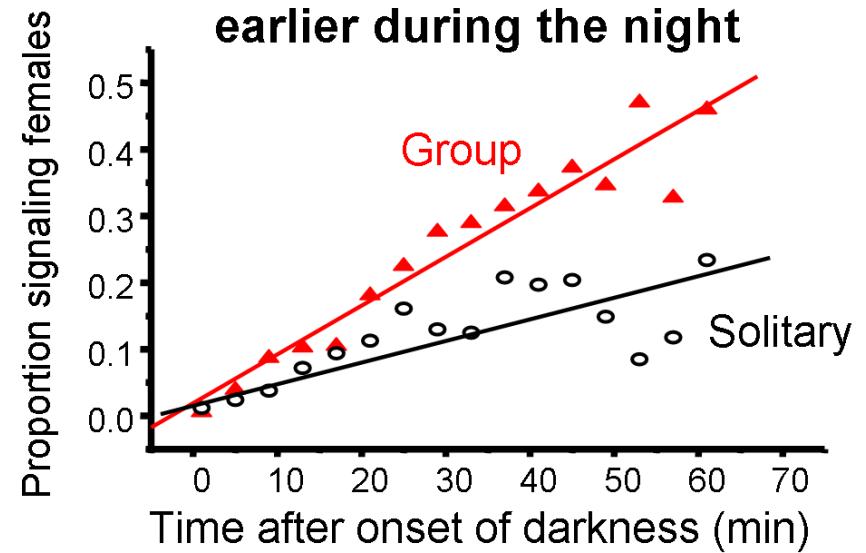
^aDepartment of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Kansas, 1200 Sunnyside Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66045, USA and ^bInstitut de Recherche sur la Biologie de l'Insecte, CNRS UMR 6035, Université François Rabelais de Tours, Parc de Grandmont, 37200 Tours, France

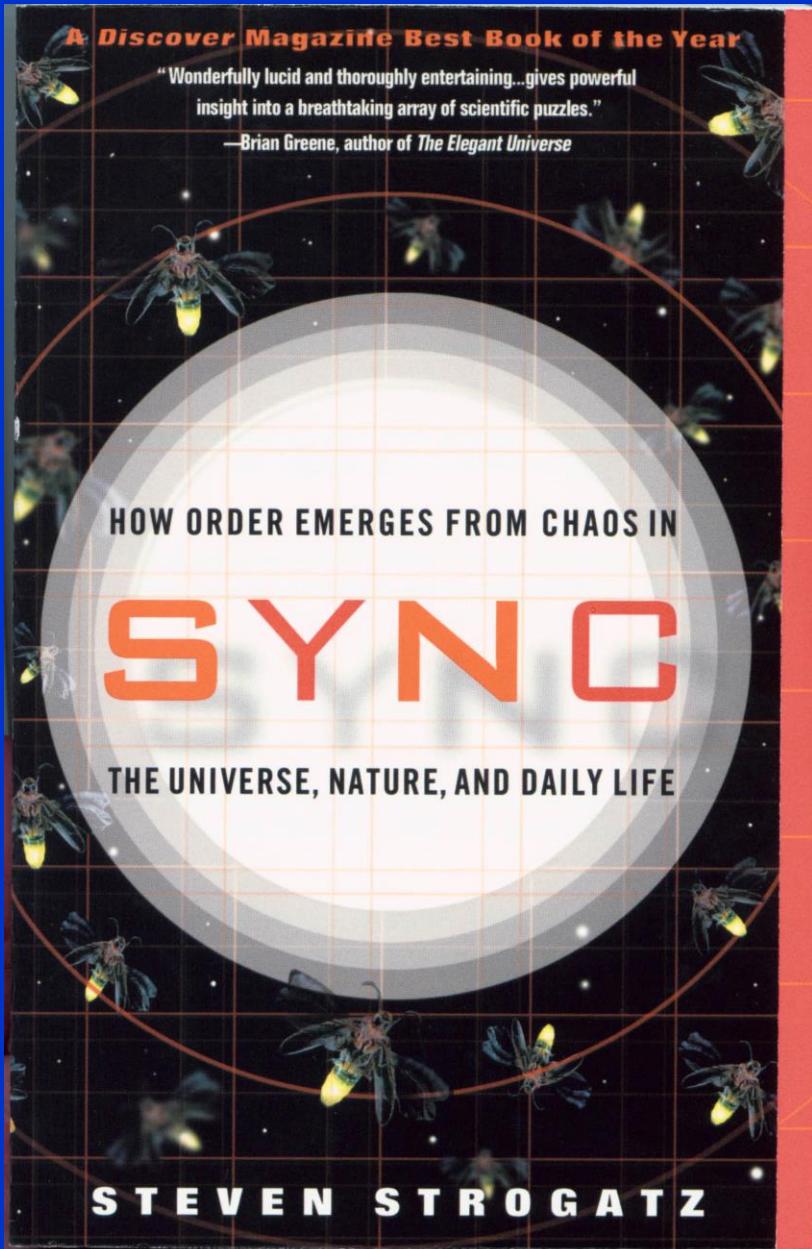
We report an unusual case of communal sexual display in the arctiid moth *Utetheisa ornatrix* that we designate “female pheromonal chorusing.” As in most moths, female *U. ornatrix* release a long-distance sexual advertisement pheromone during a nightly activity period. We arranged *U. ornatrix* females in 2 types of signaling conditions: grouped and solitary. When the females were grouped with neighboring signaling females (grouped), they initiated pheromone release sooner, continued release with less interruption and over a longer total period, and performed the release with faster abdominal pumping than observed in isolated females (solitary). This differs from the usual form of sexual communication in moths: female (chemical) signalers, male receivers, and a general lack of interaction among females. At mating, male *U. ornatrix* transfer a large spermatophore that may enhance female reproductive success and which represents either mating effort or paternal investment. This action results in an extended postmating male refractory period leading to a female-biased operational sex ratio. We argue that this biased sex ratio generates intrasexual competition among females, to which they respond by elevating signaling effort such that the likelihood of at least matching their neighbors’ signals is increased. In the field, *U. ornatrix* are clustered around patches of host plants, and we also explore the possibility that pheromonal chorusing is driven by cooperation among groups of related—or non-related—females. *Key words:* Lepidoptera, mating system, operational sex ratio, sexual selection, signal competition. [Behav Ecol]



Utetheisa ornatrix (Lepidoptera : Arctiidae)

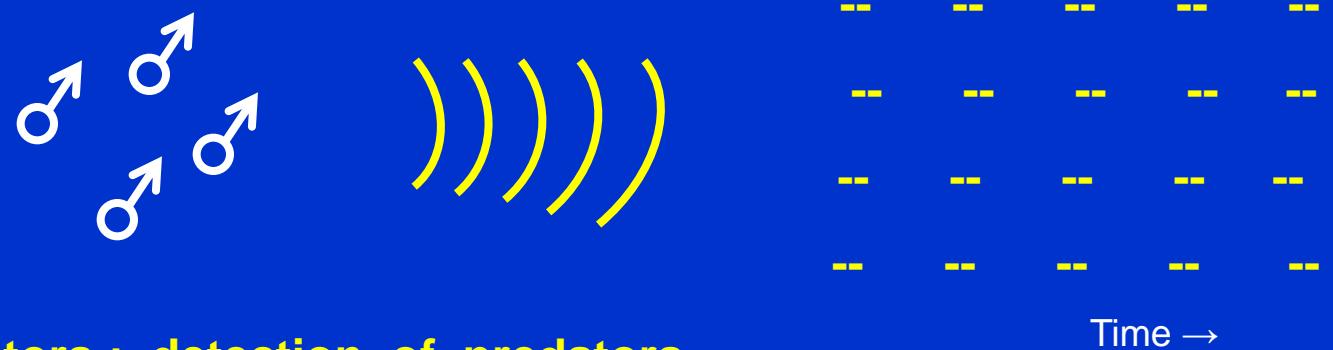
Grouped females begin signaling earlier during the night





Specialized rhythmic chorusing : potential adaptive features

- * **Retention of species-specific rhythm or call envelope**



- * **Evasion of predators ; detection of predators**
- * **Maximization of collective signal intensity of local group**
- * **Unmasking of sexually-selected signal characters ; ability to detect and evaluate rivals**

(Greenfield 2005)

Alternative to the adaptationist paradigm : (the null hypothesis)

Choruses might also arise simply as an ‘emergent property’ of local interactions between singing neighbors. That is, the overall chorus structure per se, even when very complex and seemingly specialized, is neutral in terms of preference by female receivers and the benefits that male signalers might accrue from generating it.

(Greenfield & Schul 2008 ; Greenfield 2015)

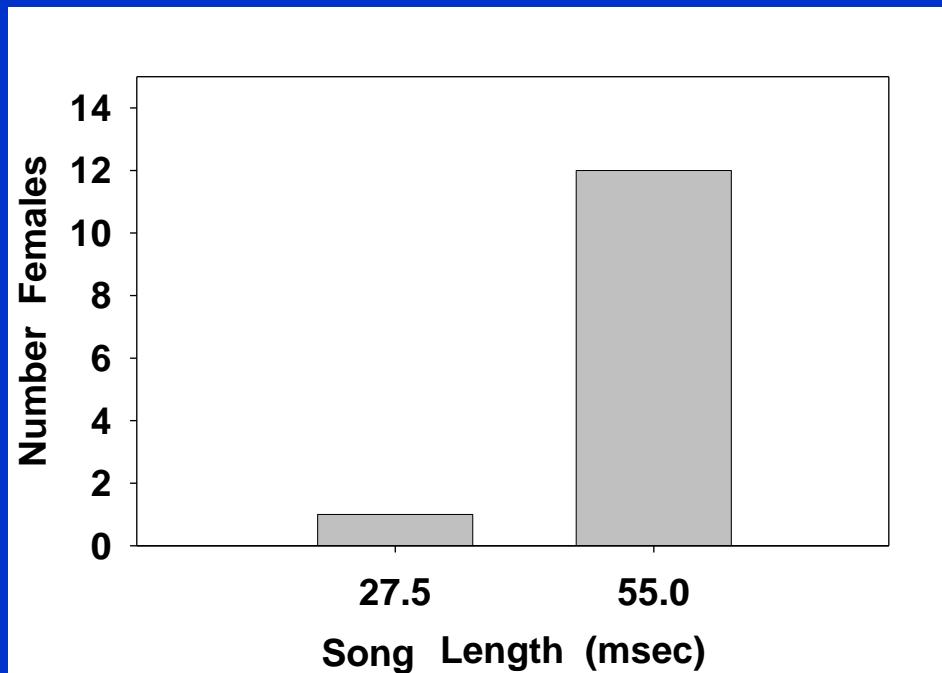
How might this work ?

3-step pathway :

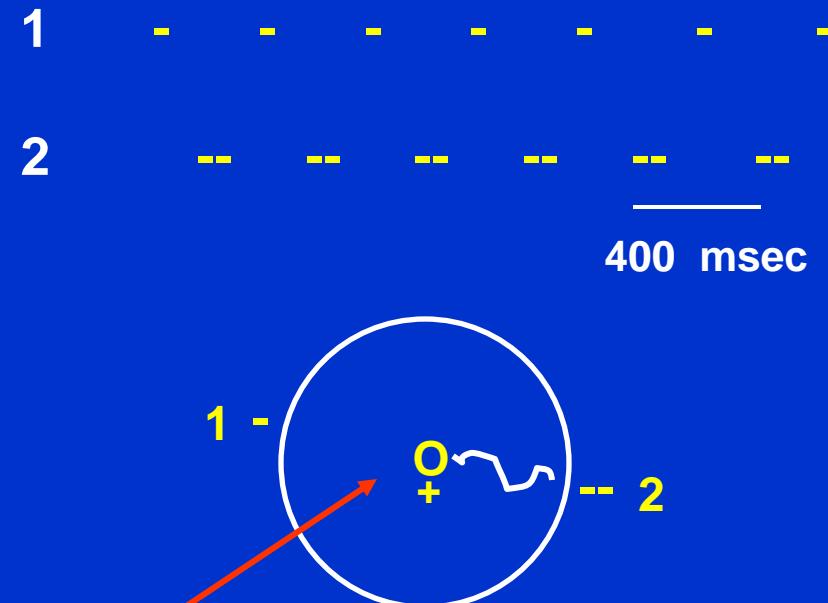
Collective singing patterns in choruses simply emerge from the ‘receiver psychology’ of female perception and preference.

- 1) Females ignore male calls that follow a neighbor’s by a brief interval.
- 2) Males adjust call rhythm (phase) upon hearing a stimulus or neighbor.
- 3) When multiple males use equivalent adjustments an expansive chorus of synchrony and/or alternation may arise.

Importantly, the display can be generated in the absence of any selection expressly favoring synchrony or alternation.



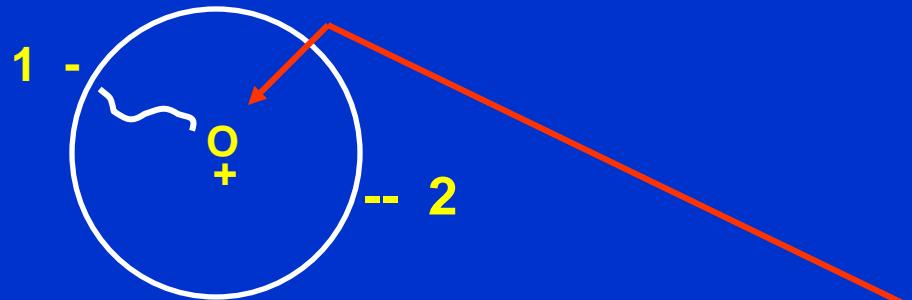
Loudspeaker



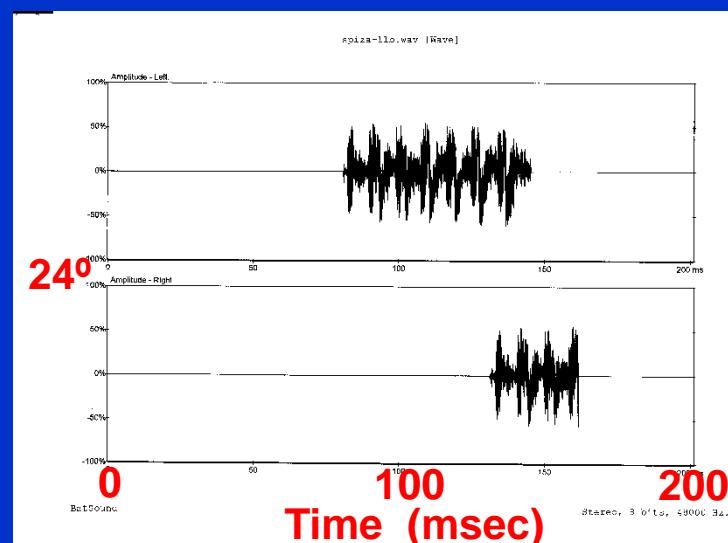
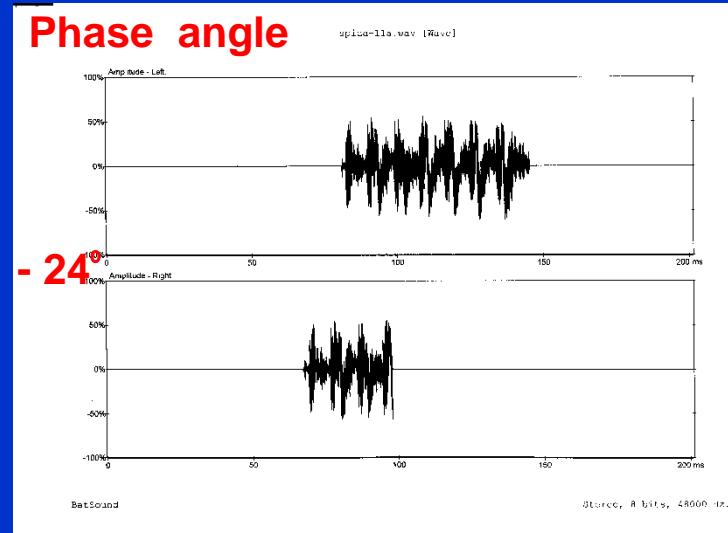
Neoconocephalus spiza (Orthoptera : Tettigoniidae) :
female preference for song length

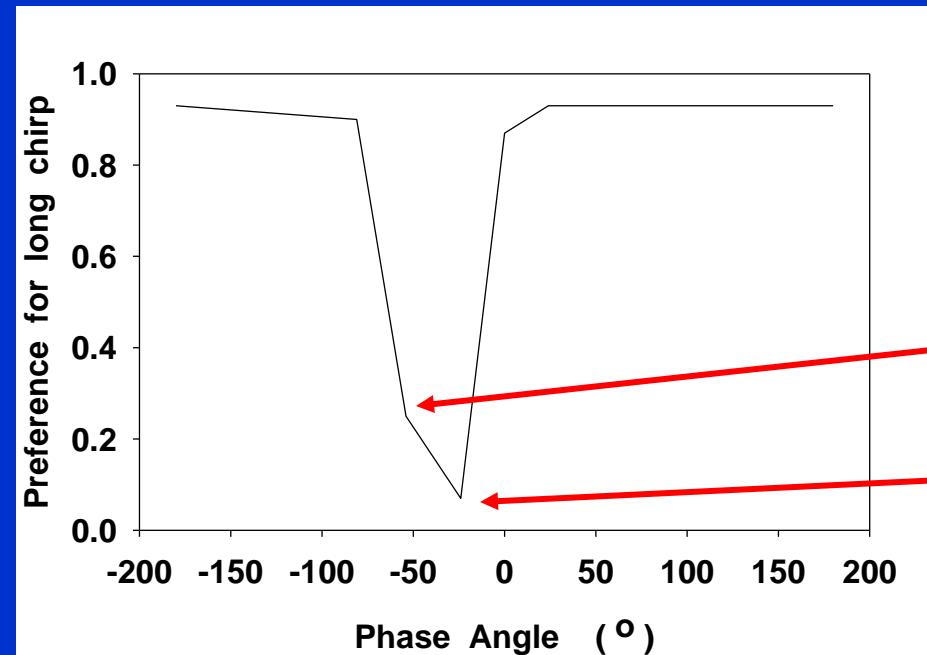


Phonotaxis

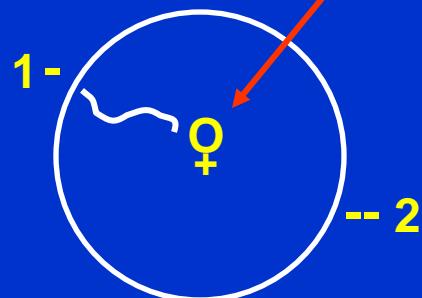


Neoconocephalus spiza :
female preference for
leading song overrides
song length





Greenfield & Roizen 1993

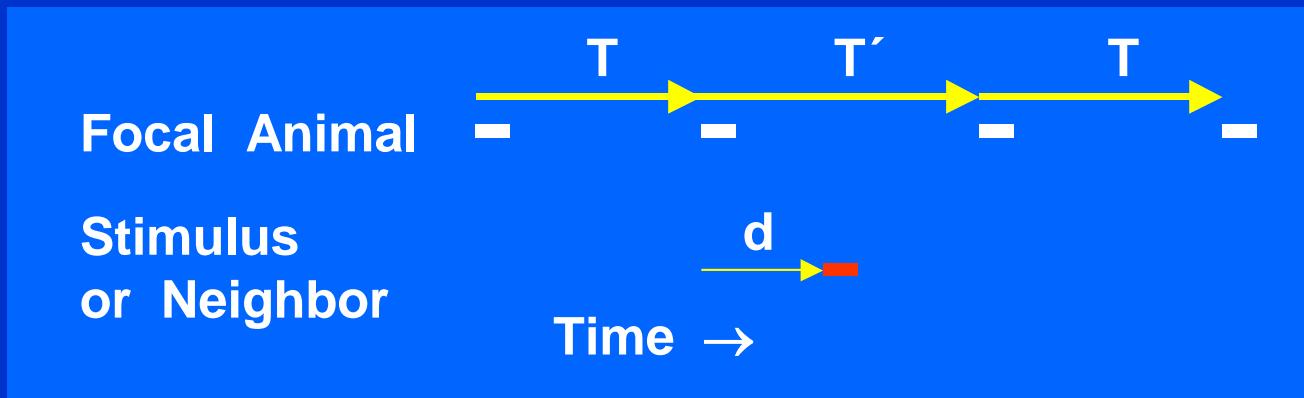


Phase Angle



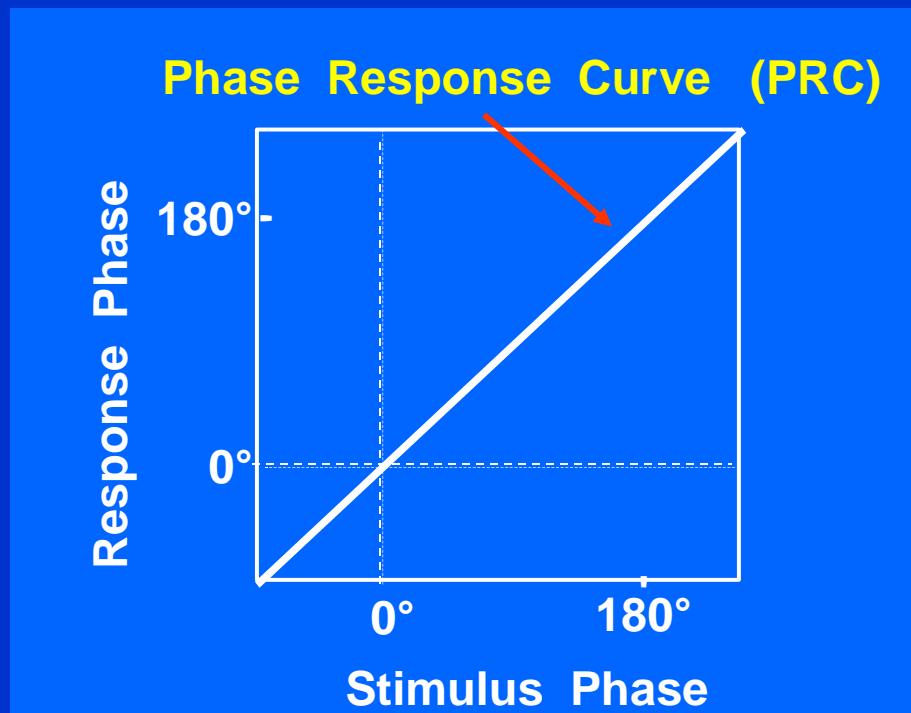
Neoconocephalus spiza - precedence effect in female phonotaxis

Inhibitory Resetting :



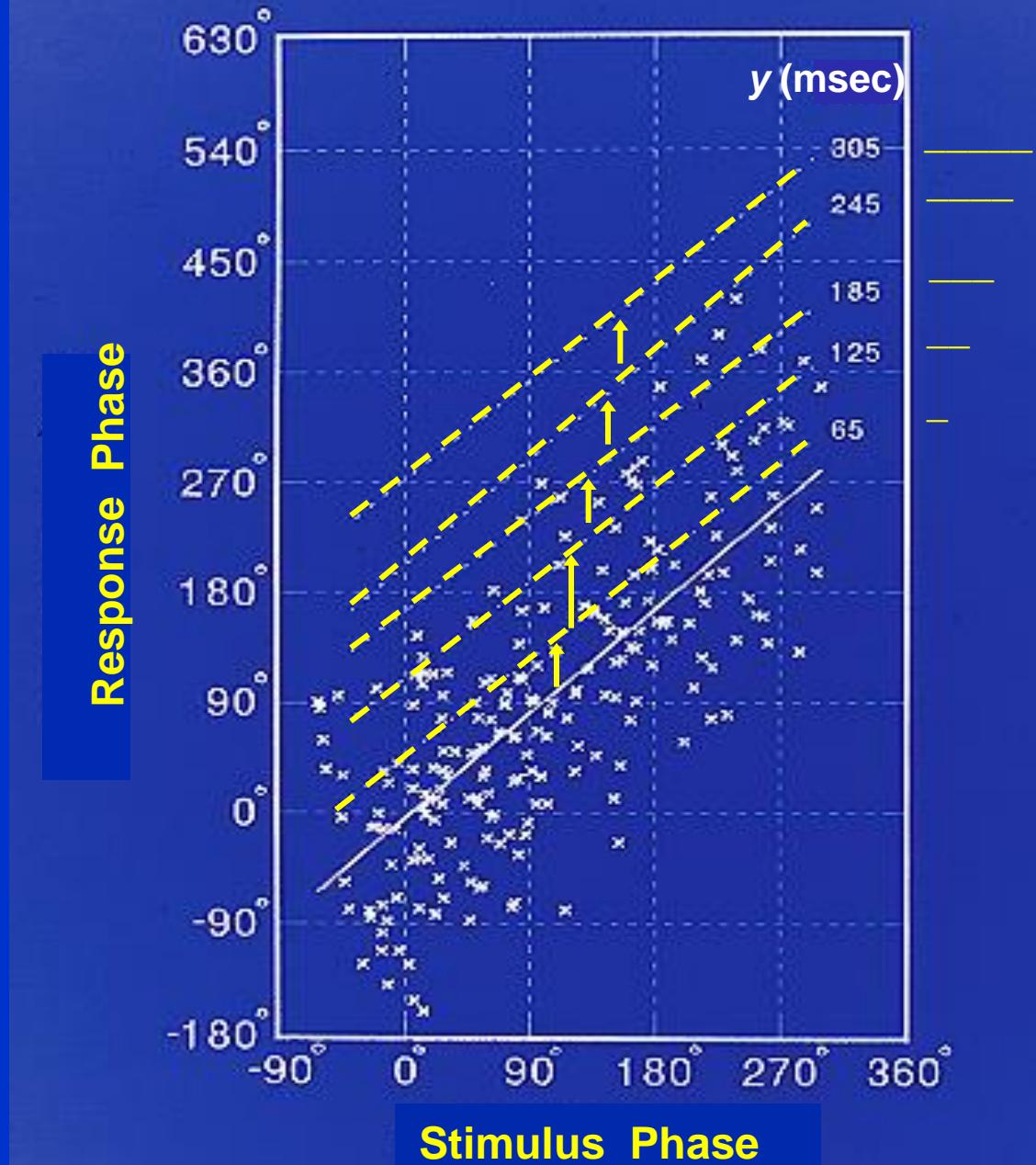
$$\text{Stimulus Phase} = (d / T) \cdot 360^\circ$$

$$\text{Response Phase} = \{(T' - d) / T\} \cdot 360^\circ$$



Neoconocephalus spiza
(Tettigoniidae) :

PRC intercepts adjusted by stimulus length

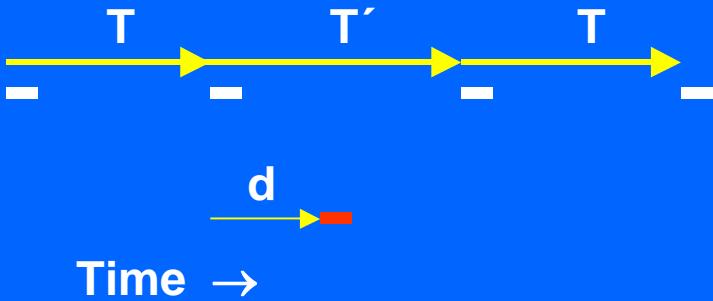


Response phase,
 $\{(T' - T) / T\} \cdot 360^\circ$

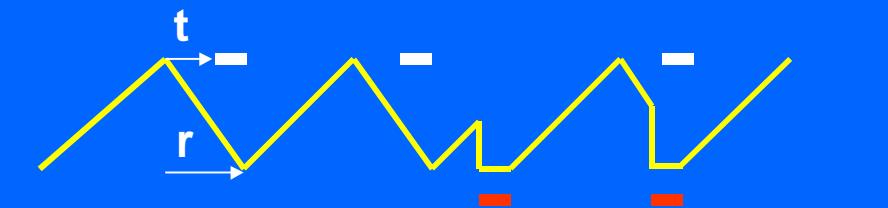
PRC slope = s

Stimulus phase,
 $(d / T) \cdot 360^\circ$

Focal Animal
Stimulus
or Neighbor



Oscillator level



Basic model :

$$T' = (T + \varepsilon) + (s \cdot d), \quad \text{where } \varepsilon \text{ is a stochastic element}$$

Full model :

$$T' = (T + \varepsilon) + s\{(d + l/v) - (r - t)\} + (y - x)$$

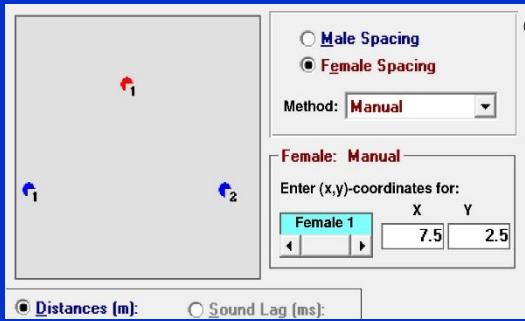
Monte Carlo Simulation

Michael Tourtellot

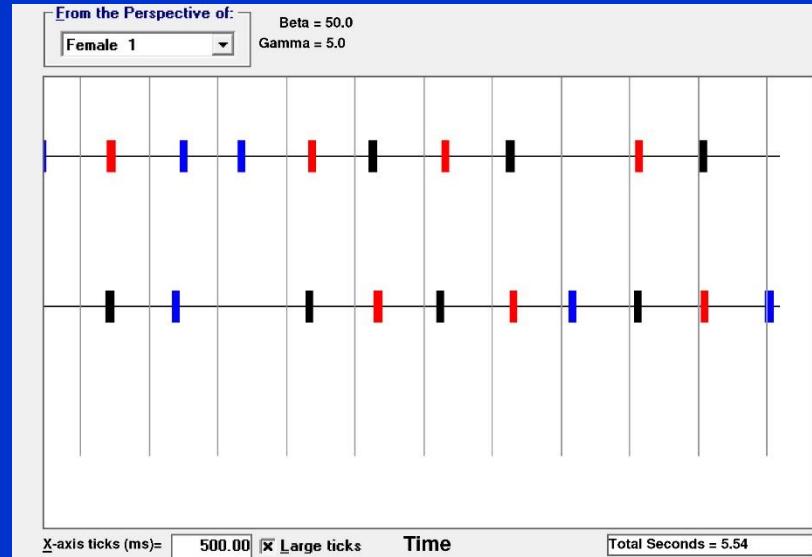
VisualBASIC® Maestro



Monte Carlo Simulation



Spacing ; 2 males separated by 5 m ;
1 female



Adjust settings for which male: Male 2

Period –
Inter-Chirp interval 450 ± 0 ms
Chirp Length 50 ± 0 ms

Epsilon Distribution
Uniform Minimum -40 Maximum 40 ms

Miscellaneous
Trigger-to-Chirp Lag 70 ± 0 ms
Oscillator Return Interval 70 ± 0 ms
Slope 0.9

Beta
Beta is an inhibition interval, measured in milliseconds. It begins at the onset of a Leading chirp, and subsequent chirps falling within the interval do not reset the listening window.
Beta = 50.0 ms

Gamma
Gamma is a period that begins at the onset of a Leading chirp, within Beta, during which subsequent chirps are heard.
Gamma = 5.0 ms

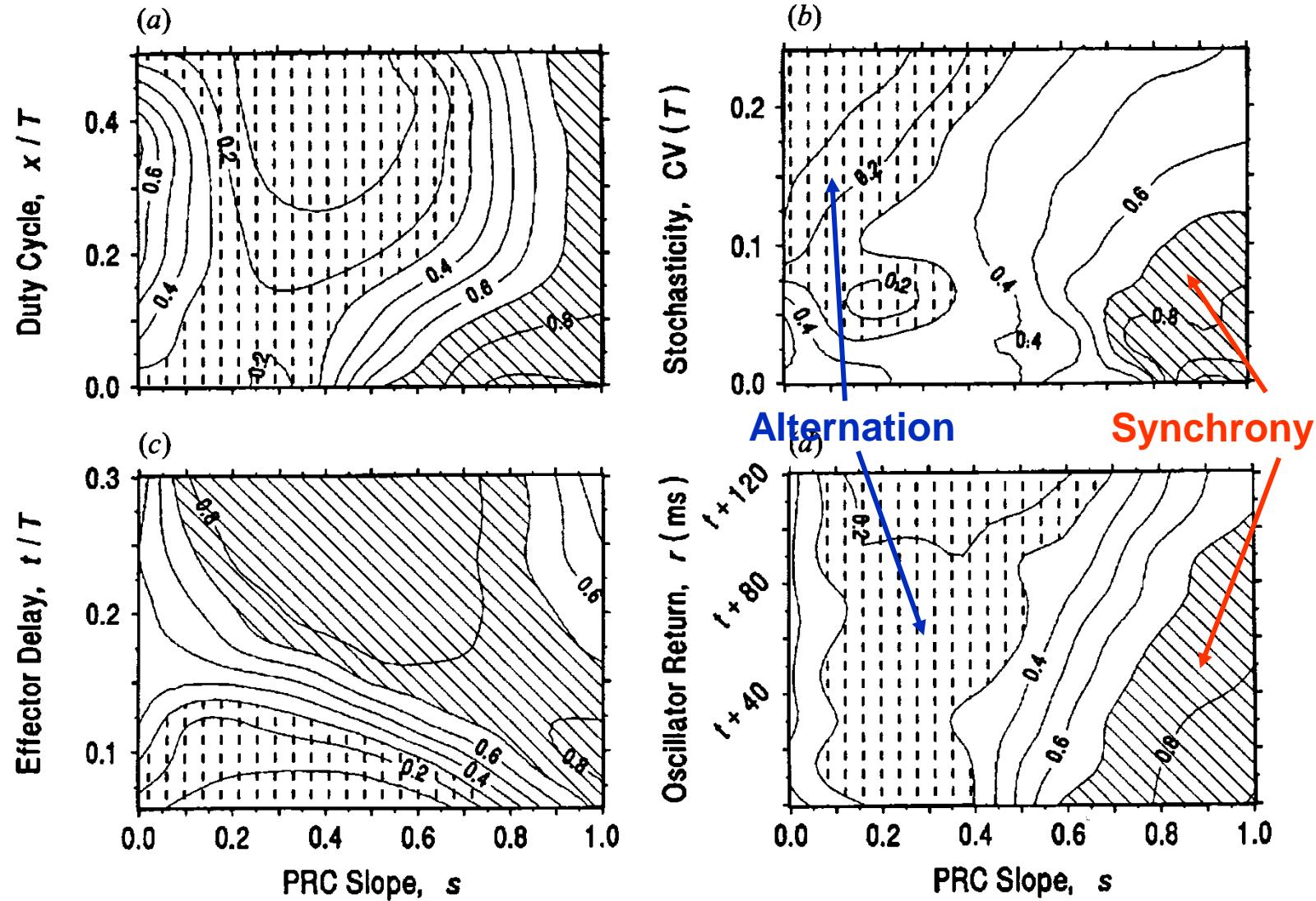
Hear-Whom control
DEAF Can Hear while Chirping
Specific Male
Nearest Male(s)
Absolute Distance
Absolute Sound Pressure Level
Relative Sound Pressure Level
Absolute Distance
Can hear any male within 100 meters.

Sound Pressure Level
Mean Reference SPL 94 ± 0 dB
Stdv
Reference Distance 1 meters

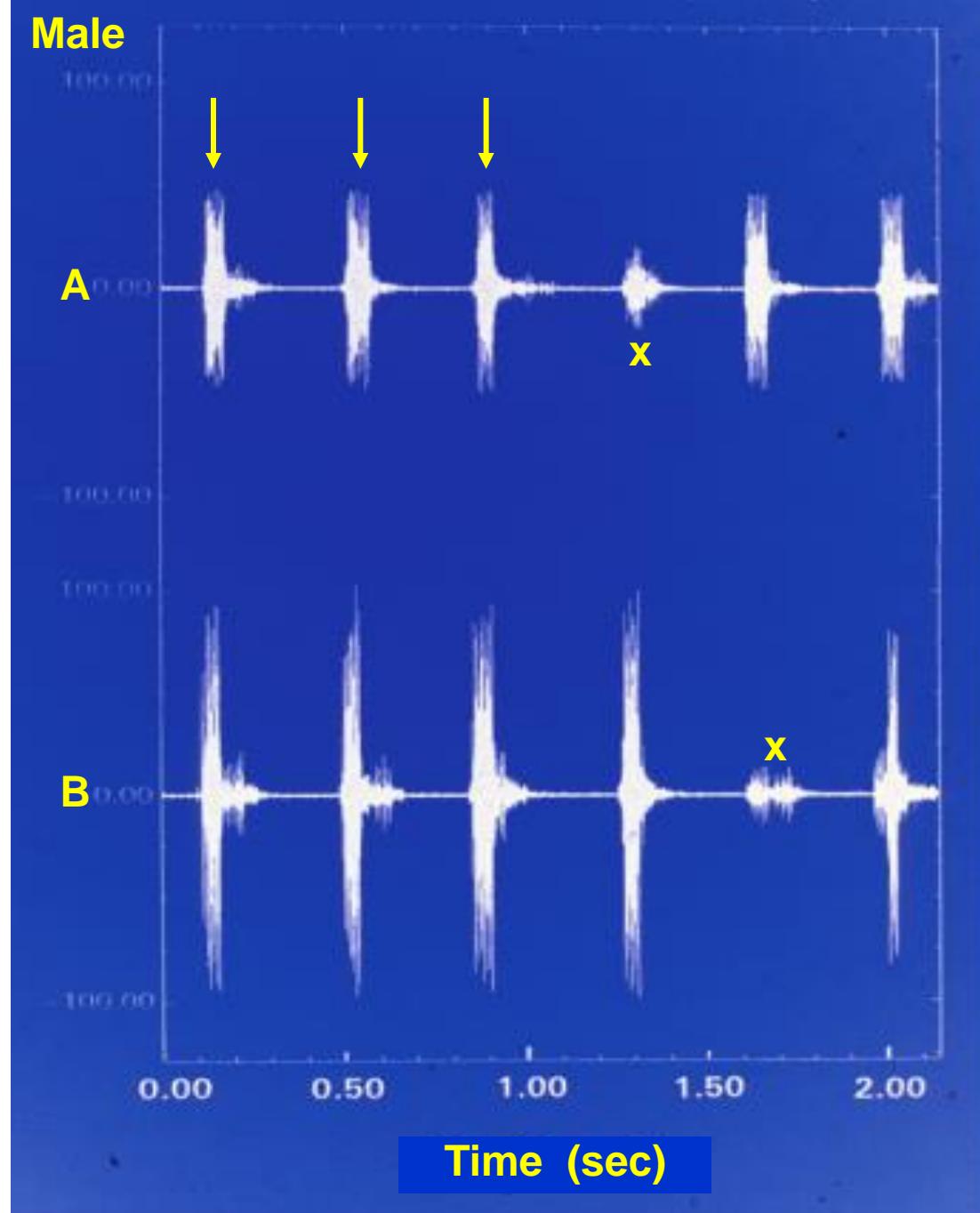
Calls of the 2 males ; mostly synchronized

Male song adjustment parameters

Monte Carlo Simulation :



Neoconocephalus spiza
(Tettigoniidae: Conocephalinae);
Central America;
(imperfect) synchrony



3-step pathway :

Collective singing patterns in choruses simply emerge from the ‘receiver psychology’ of female perception and preference.

- 1) Females ignore male calls that follow
a neighbor’s by a brief interval.

No experimental evidence for coevolution
between male and female traits



- 2) Males adjust call rhythm (phase)
upon hearing a stimulus or neighbor.



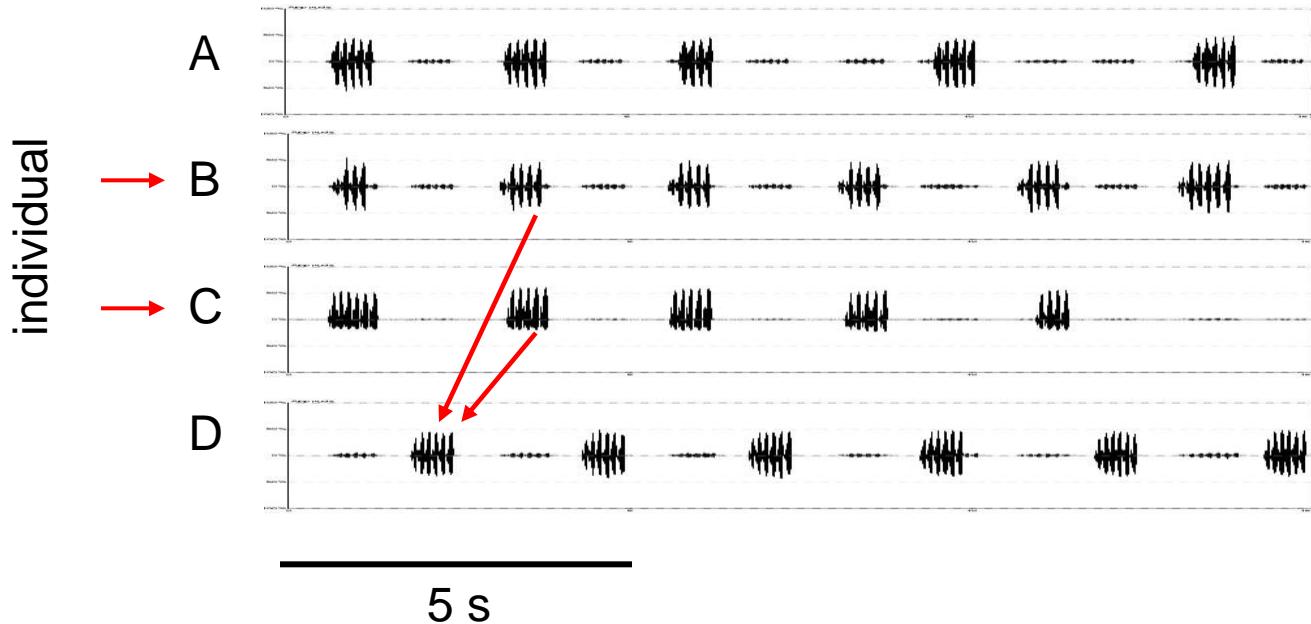
- 3) When multiple males use equivalent adjustments an expansive chorus
of synchrony and/or alternation may arise.
Importantly, the display can be generated in the absence of any
selection expressly favoring synchrony or alternation.



Question 1 :

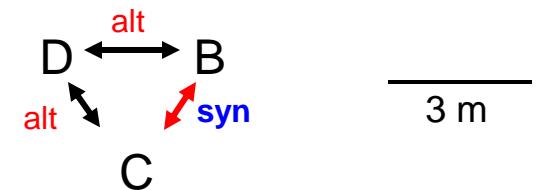
Did male song adjustment (inhibitory resetting) coevolve with female response to relative call timing (leading vs. following calls) ?

Tettigoniidae ; Bradyporinae



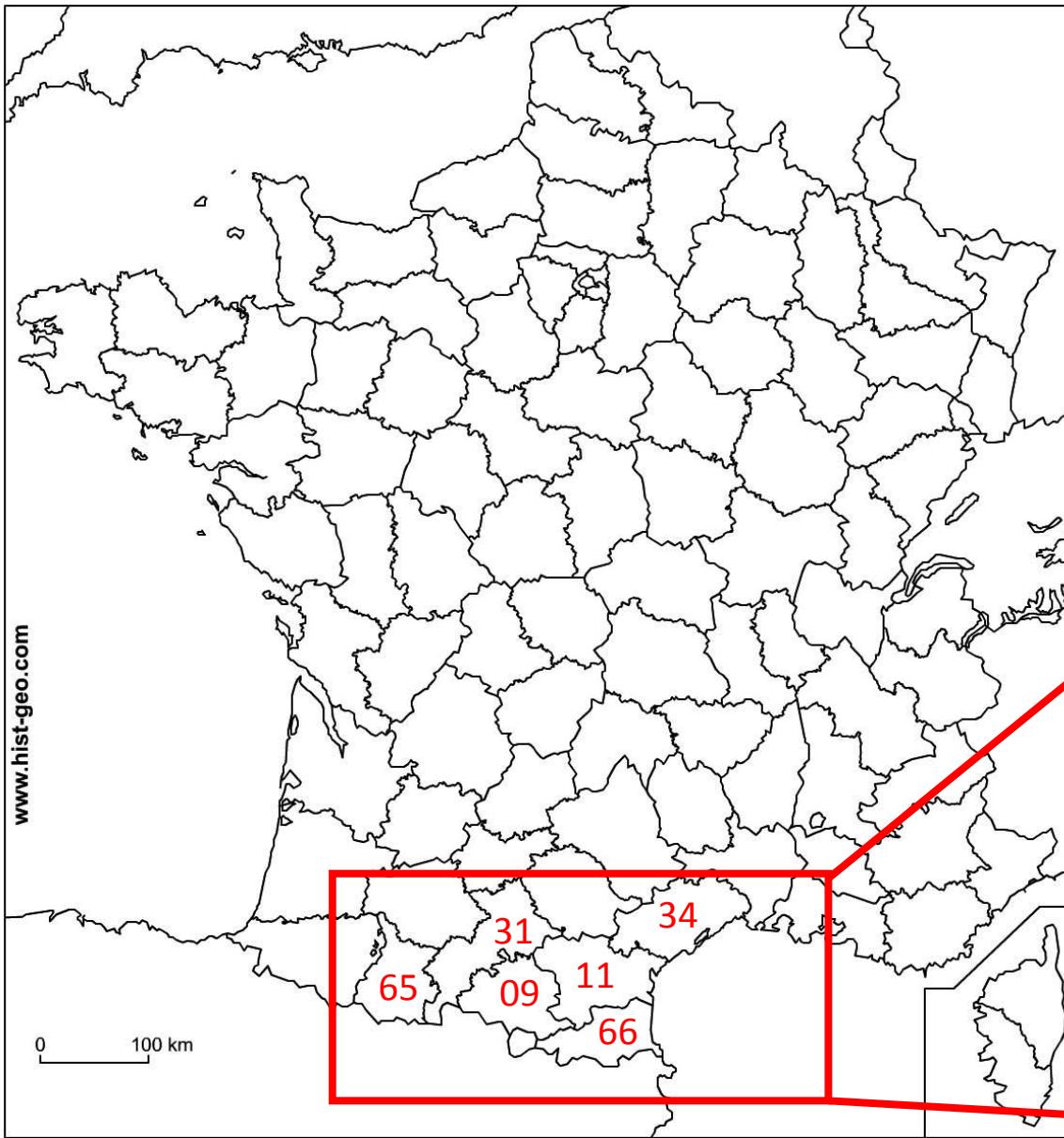
Ephippiger diurnus

Alternation + Synchrony

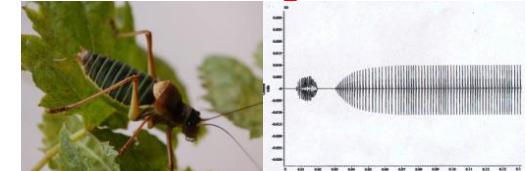


Females ignore following calls ;
Male song adjustment (inhibitory resetting) ;
Chorusing (alternation and synchrony)

Flightless ; negligible dispersal ;
narrow habitat preference ;
isolated, genetically differentiated populations



***Ephippiger diurnus* (Tettigoniidae)**

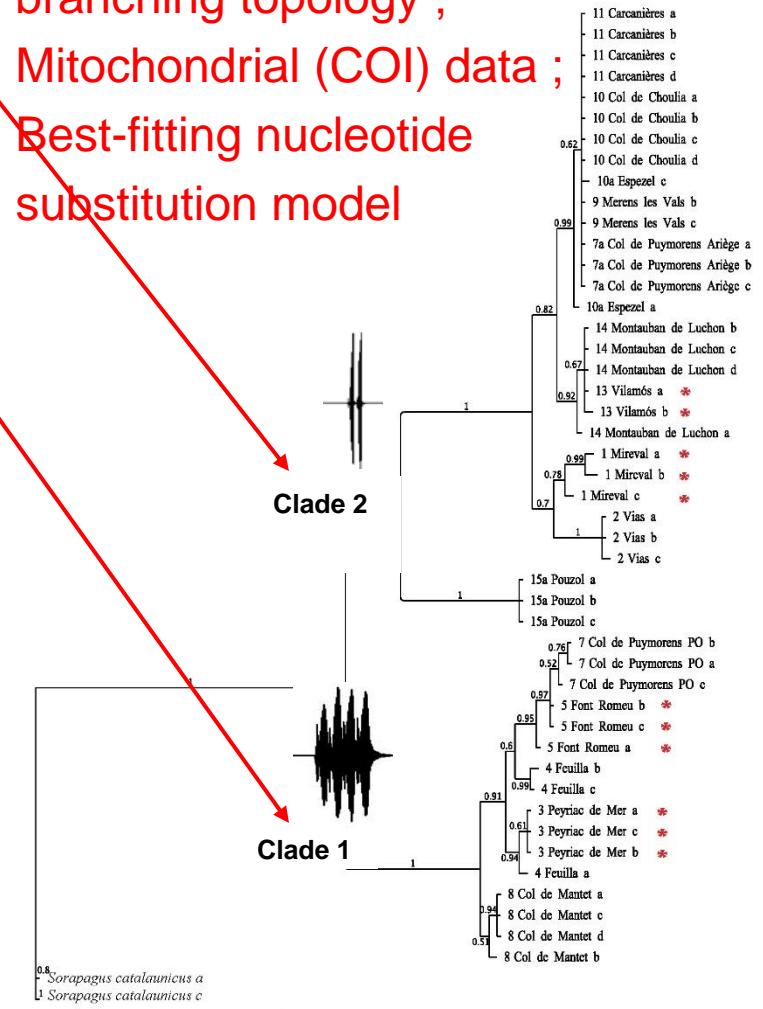
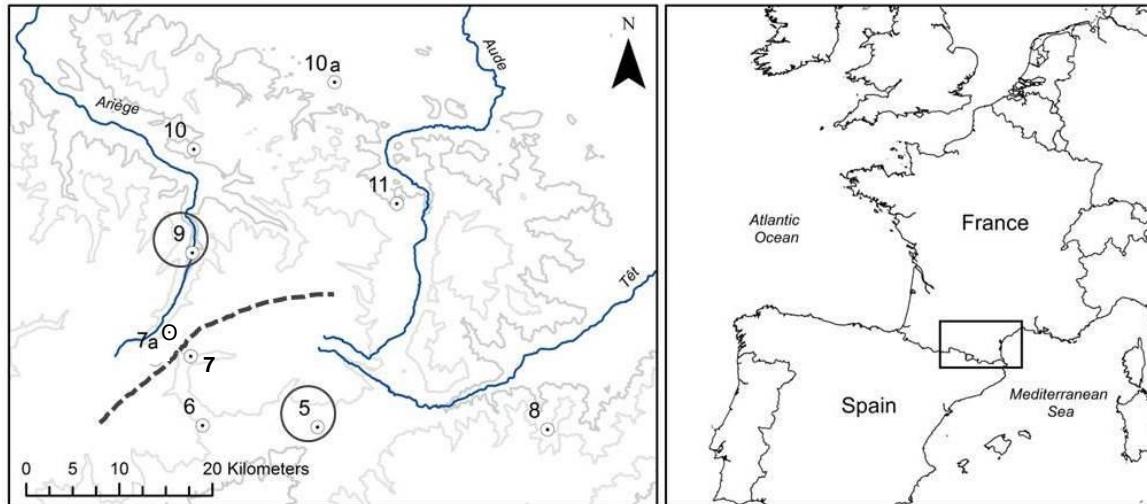
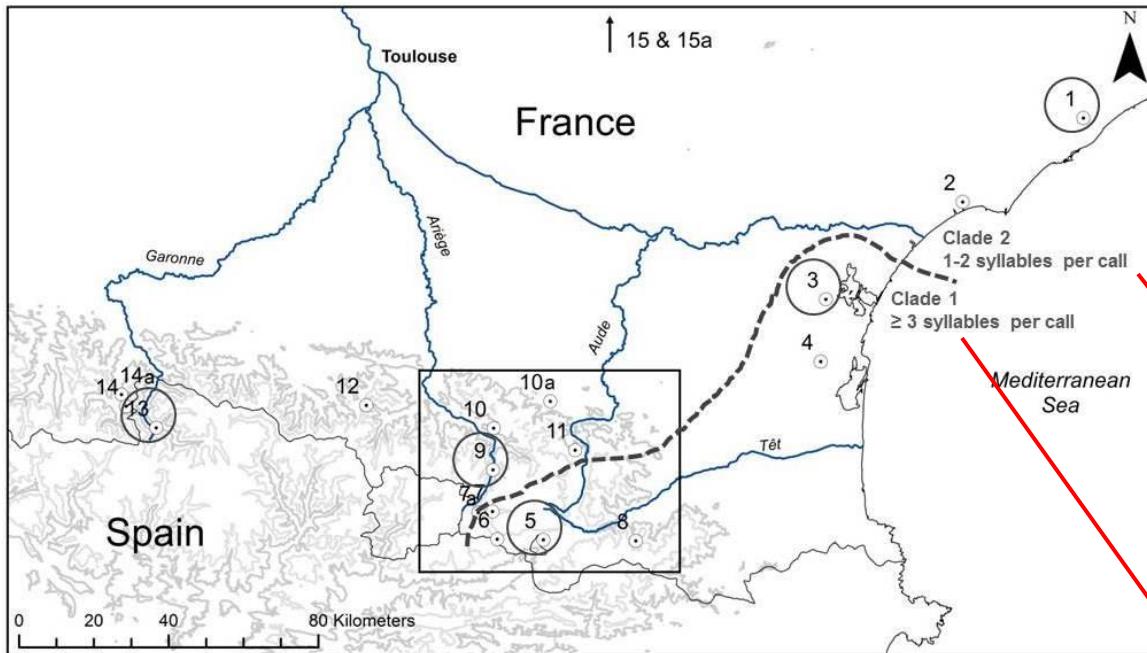


Flightless ; negligible dispersal ;
narrow habitat preference ;
geographically isolated,
genetically differentiated populations

→

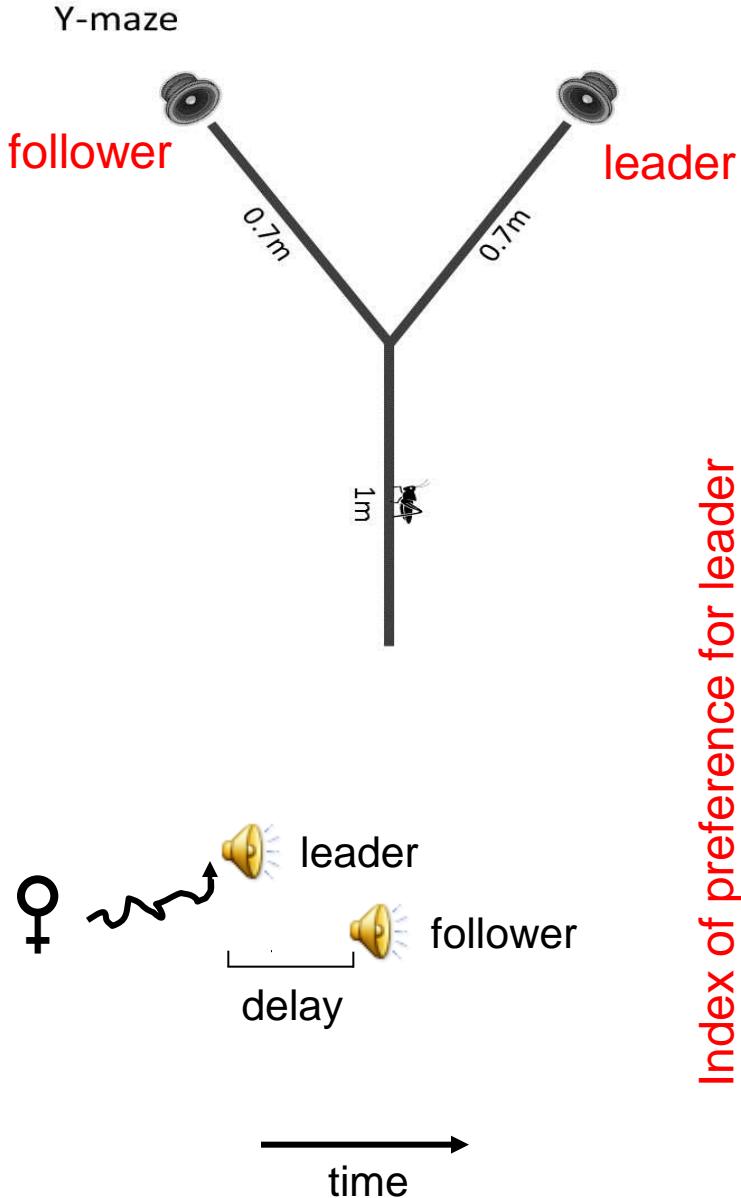
Application of comparative
phylogenetic methods possible

'Comparative Method' ;
 17 *E. diurnus* populations
 'sampled' ;
 Phylogenetic analysis indicates
 branching topology ;
 Mitochondrial (COI) data ;
 Best-fitting nucleotide
 substitution model

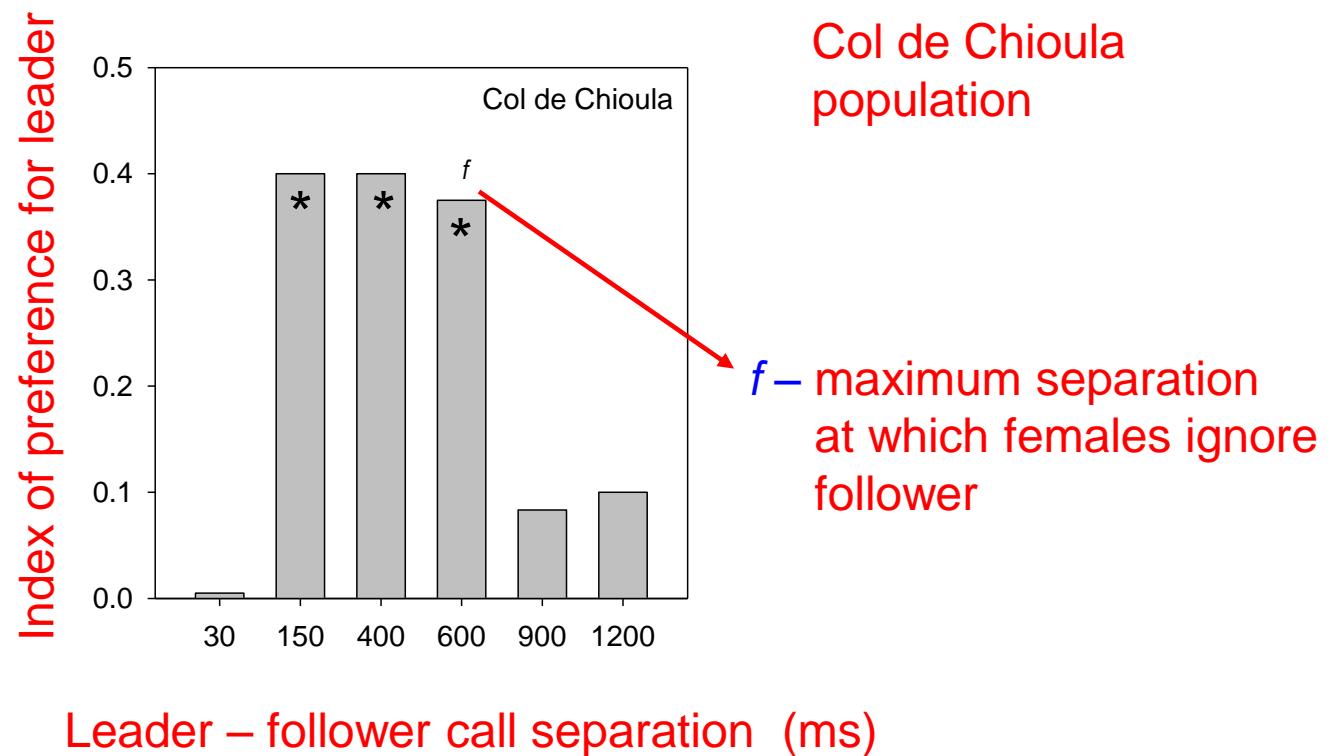


Clade 1

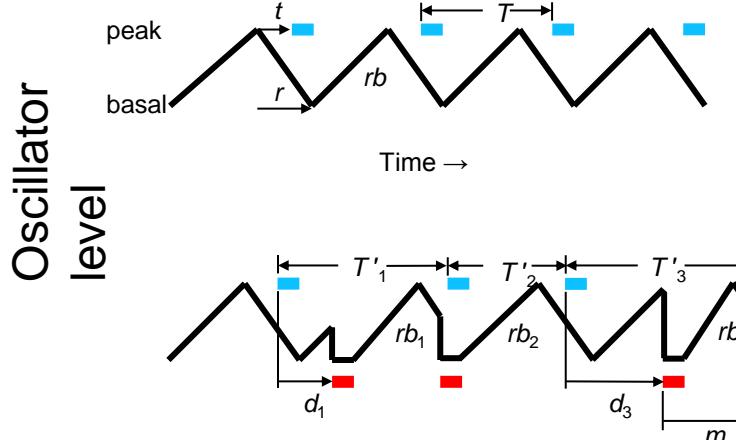
Clade 2



Measurement of female perceptual trait



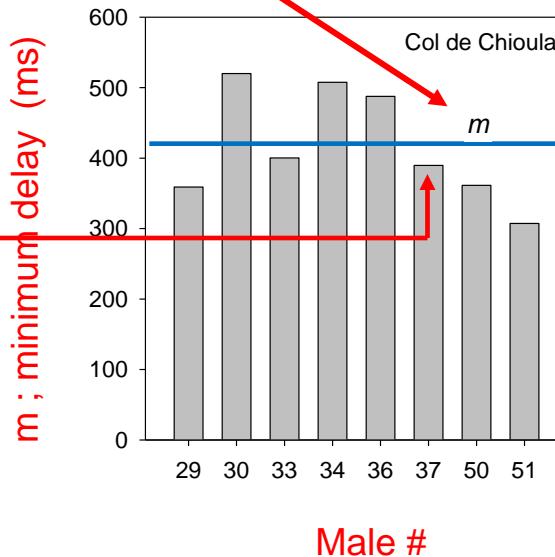
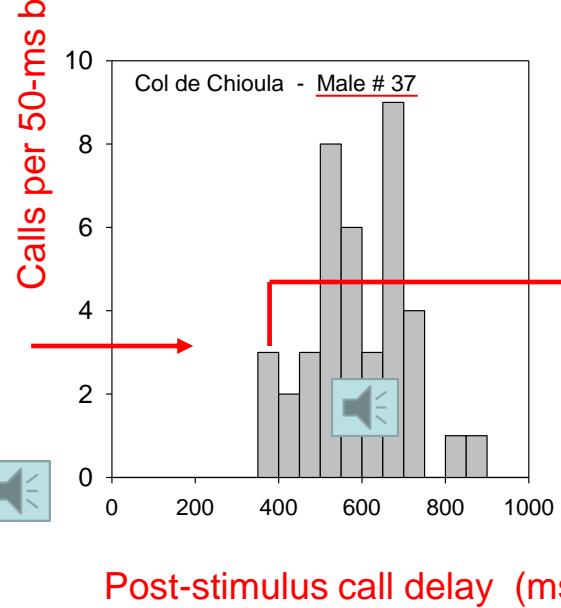
Measurement of male song adjustment trait



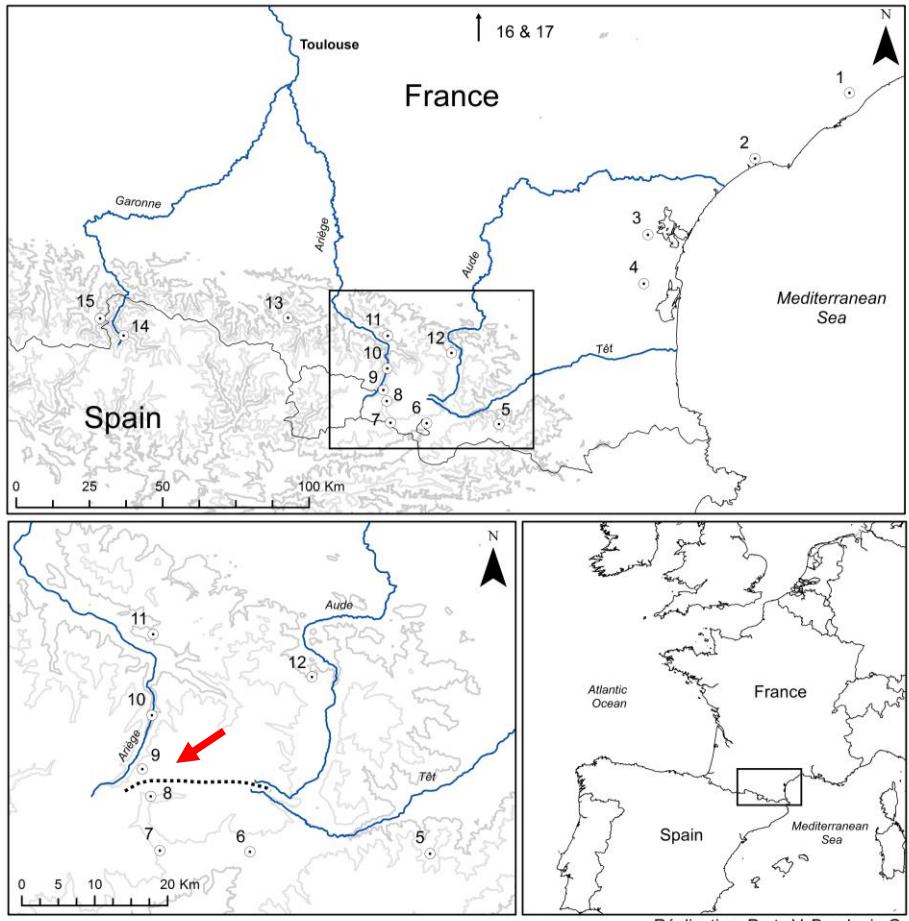
focal male

stimulus

m – minimum delay before male resumes singing



Col de Chioula population



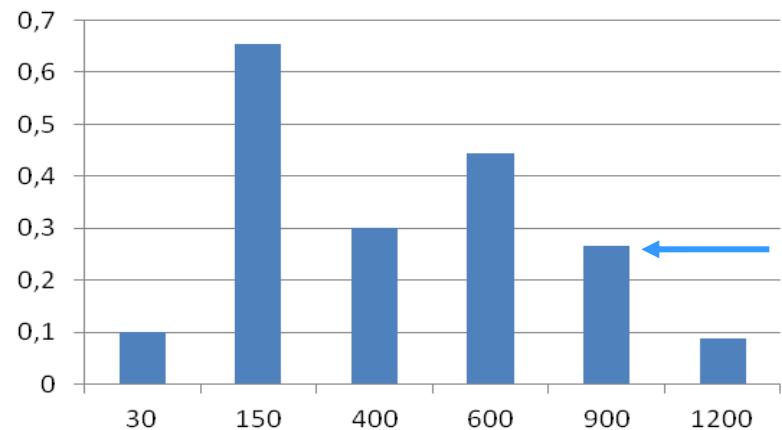
Populations: 1) Mireval, 2) Vias, 3) Peyriac de Mer, 4) Feuilla, 5) Col de Mantet, 6) Font Romeu, 7) Latour de Carol, 8) Col de Puymorens, 9) Hospitalet près l'Andorre, 10) Mérens-les-Vals, 11) Col de Chioula, 12) Carcanières, 13) Port de Lers, 14) Vilamòs, 15) Cigalère, 16) Le Lioran, 17) Pouzol.

Predictions :

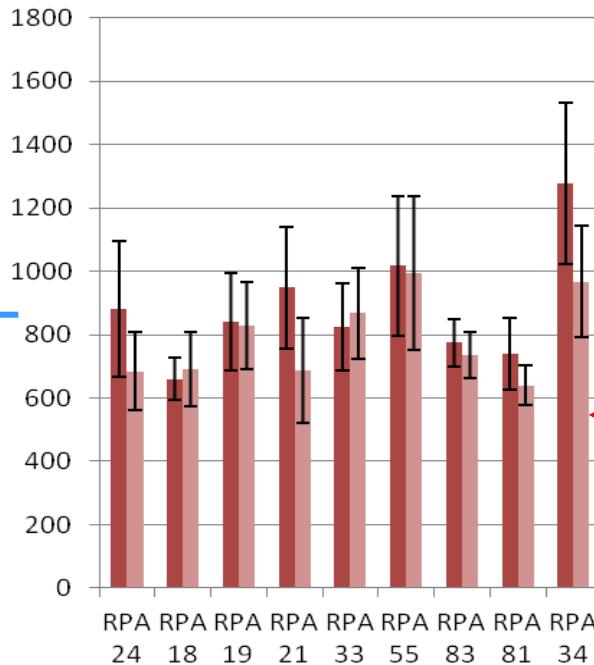
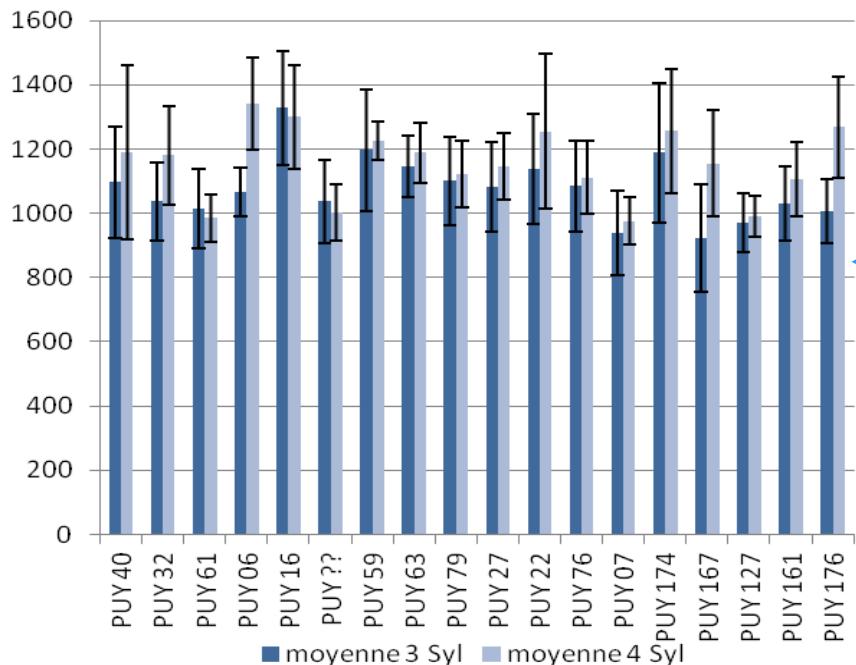
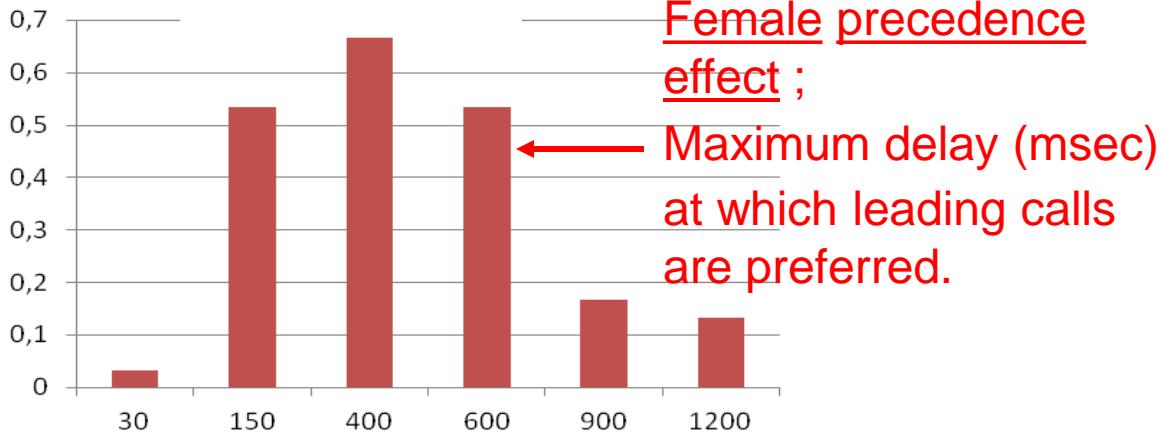
If male song adjustments have coevolved with female perception, m should be $\geq f$ such that males do not broadcast ineffective following calls.

Moreover, if $m \approx f$, males will maximize their call rate while at the same time forgoing the broadcast of following calls.

Col de Puymorens ; 8

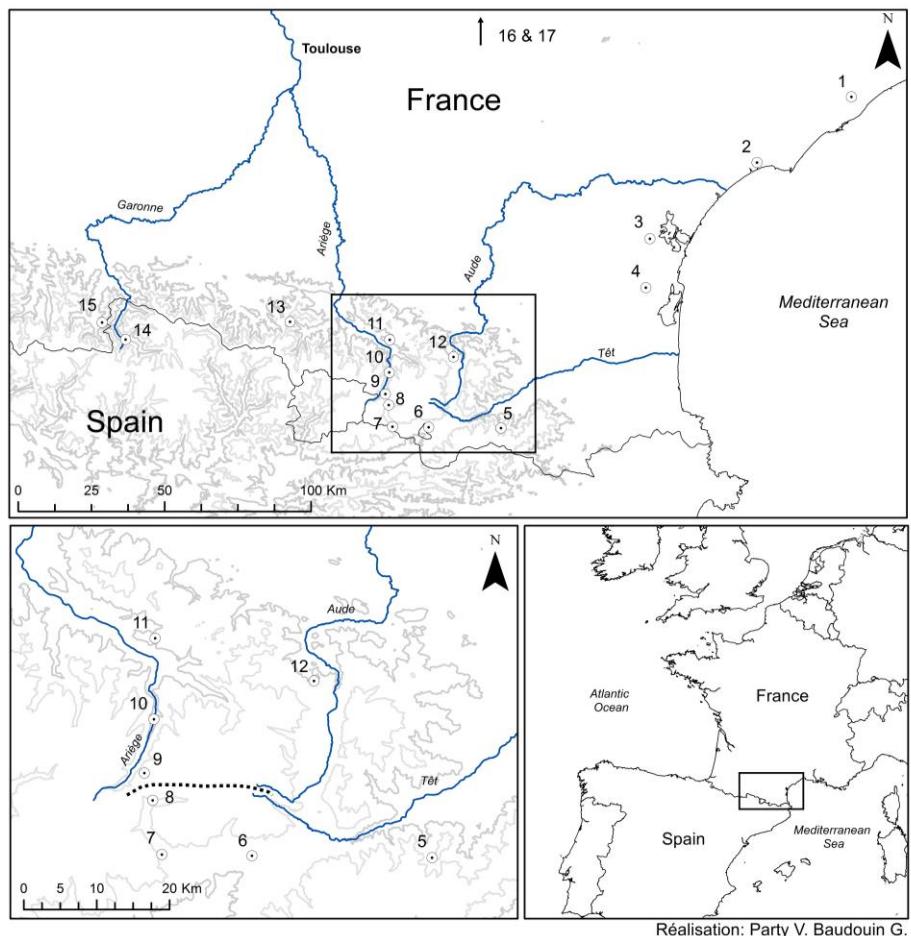


Hospitalet près l'Andorre ; 9



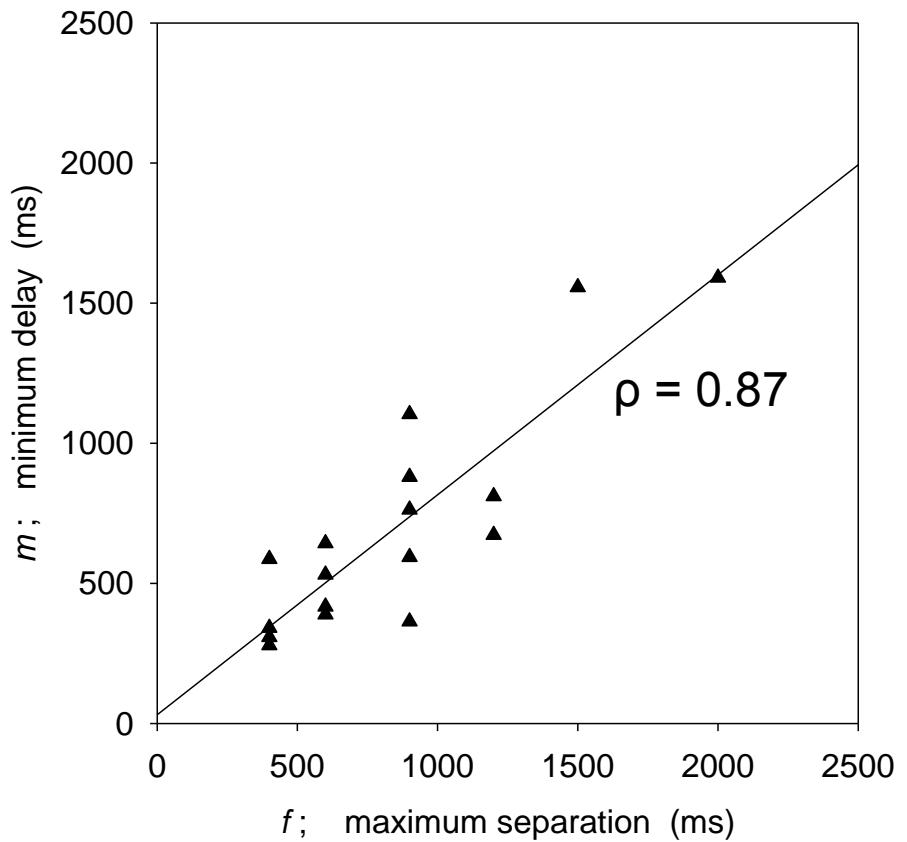
Male phase adjustment :
Minimum delay (msec) before singing after a stimulus or neighbor.



A

Populations: 1) Mireval, 2) Vias, 3) Peyriac de Mer, 4) Feuilla, 5) Col de Mantet, 6) Font Romeu, 7) Latour de Carol, 8) Col de Puymorens, 9) Hospitalet près l'Andorre, 10) Mérens-les-Vals, 11) Col de Chioula, 12) Carcanières, 13) Port de Lers, 14) Vilamòs, 15) Cigalère, 16) Le Lioran, 17) Pouzol.

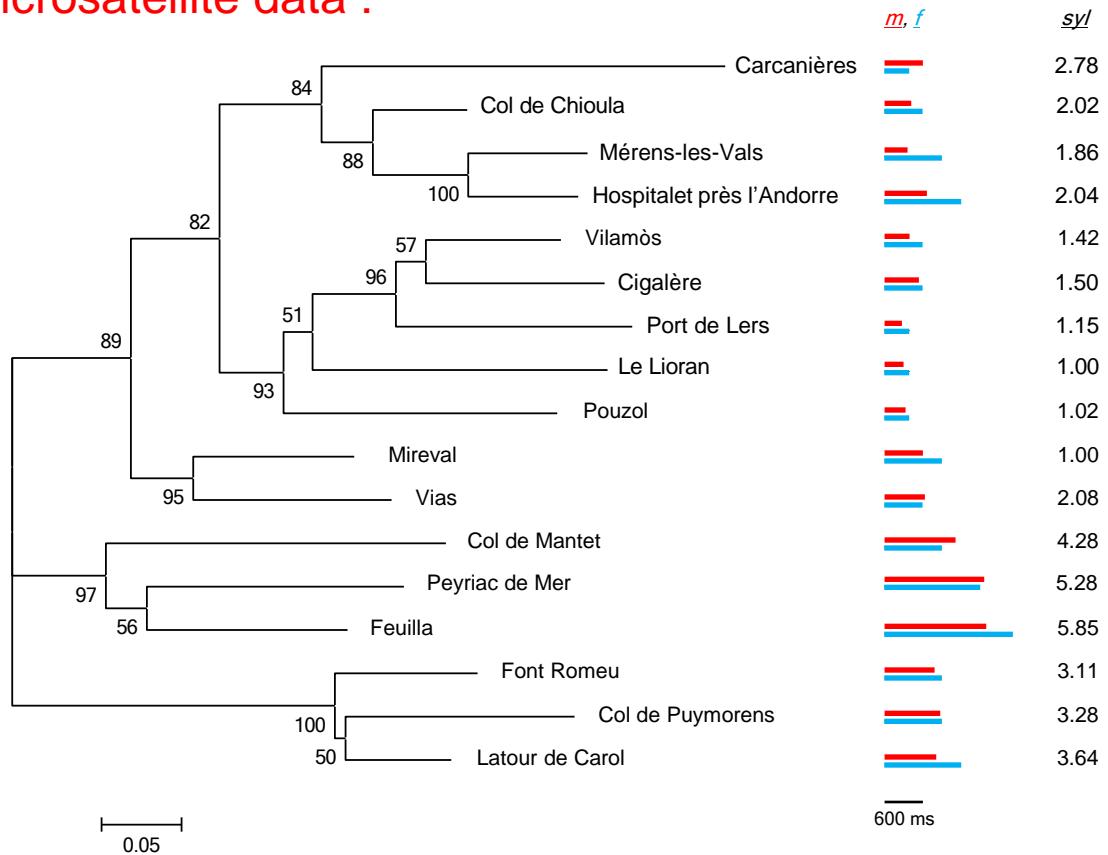
For the 17 populations sampled,
 $m \approx f$.

B

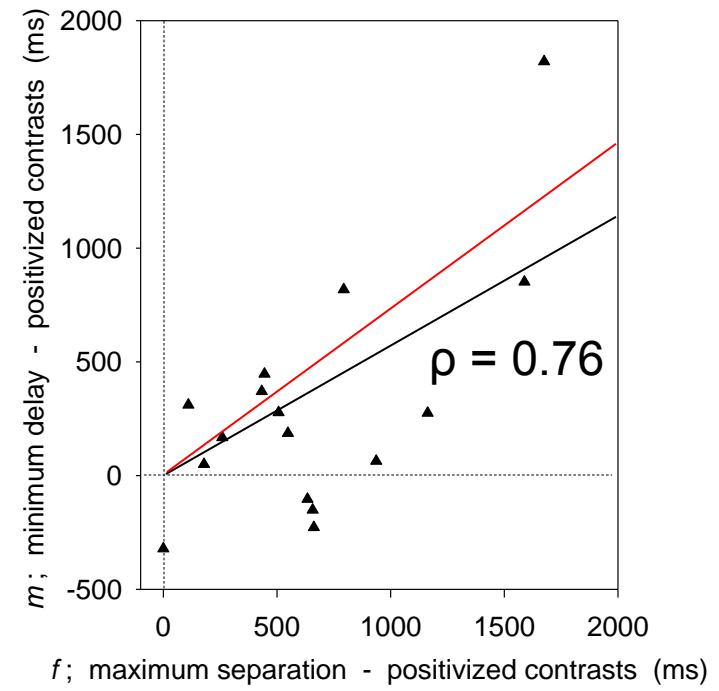
Is the $m - f$ correlation among the 17 populations an artifact of sampling ?

a) Remove 'phylogenetic signal' by application of phylogenetic independent contrasts (PIC)

'working phylogeny' of sampled *E. diurnus* populations – unrooted neighbor-joining (NJ) tree based on microsatellite data :



$m - f$ correlation following PIC correction



Is PIC justified for intra-specific comparison ?

Normally no, because gene flow resulting from inter-population migration will influence phenotypic values of a population. (Stone, Nee & Felsenstein 2011)

But, *E. diurnus* is a special case :

Negligible dispersal ;

Branching topology of population phylogeny ;

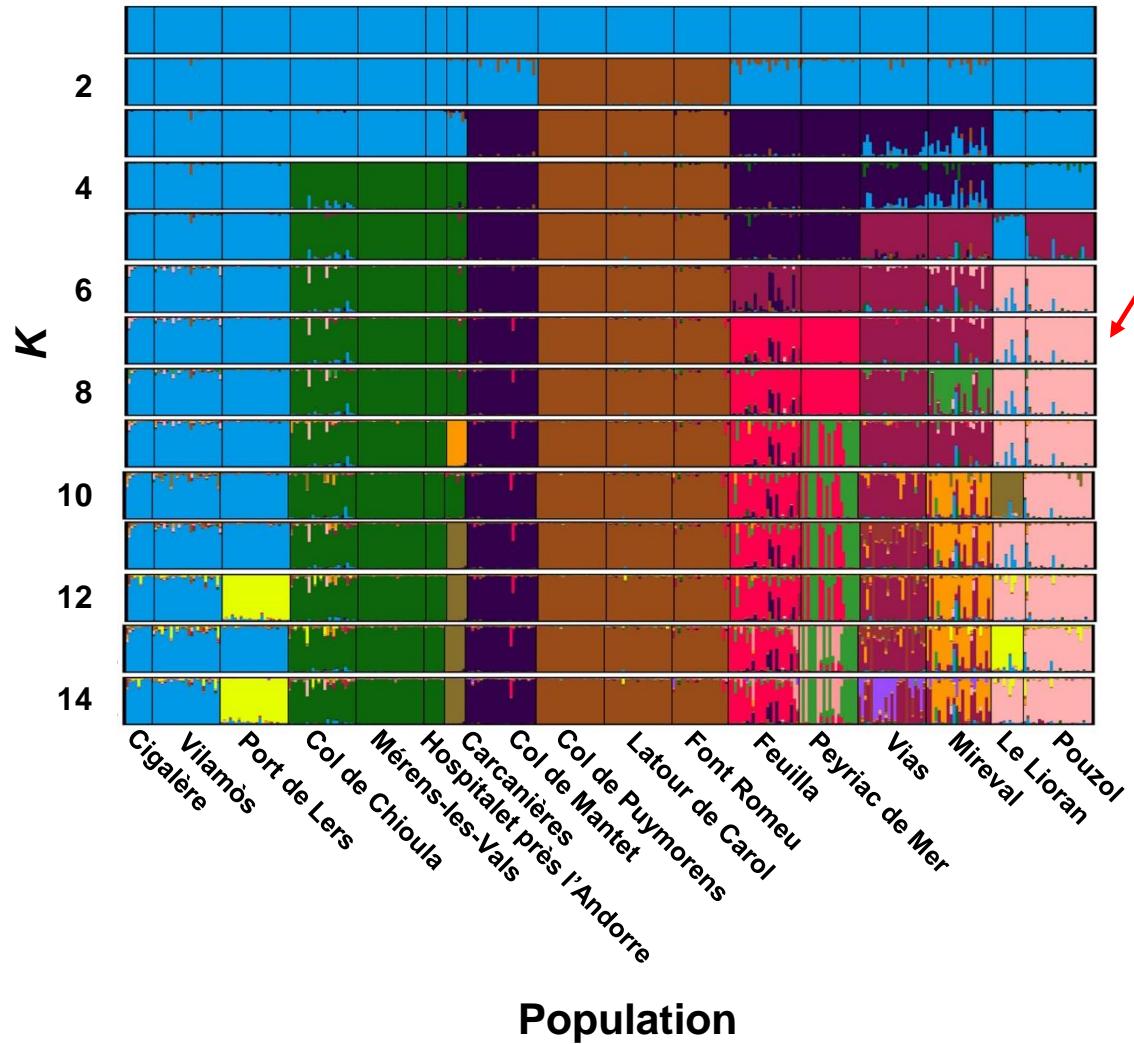
Mitochondrial (COI) tree and microsatellite tree are very similar :

‘working phylogeny’ is probably the correct one

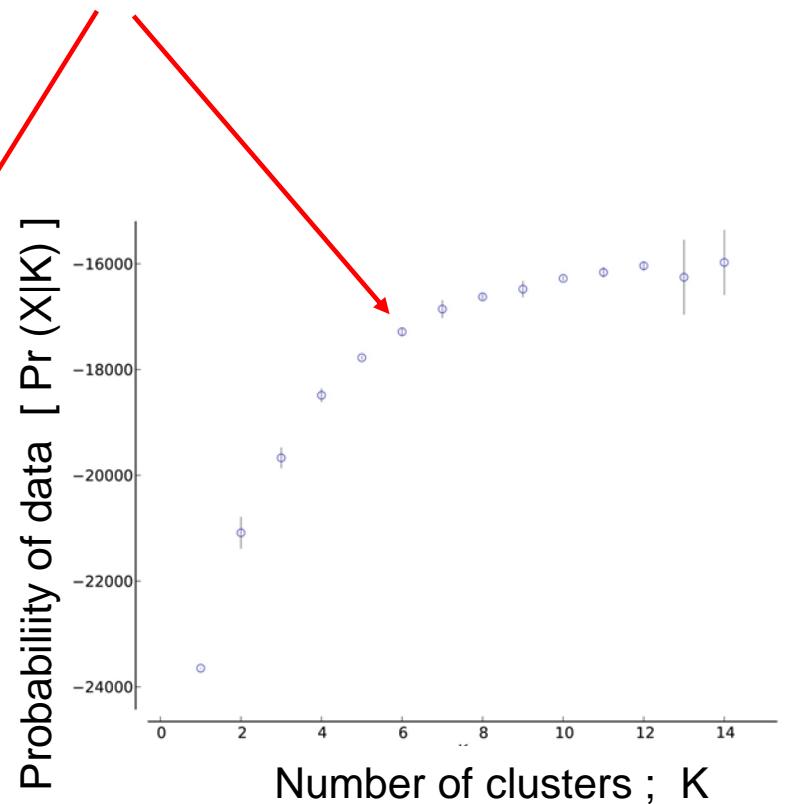
Nonetheless, we took a conservative approach :

Identify genetically differentiated clusters of populations using a Bayesian clustering protocol (STRUCTURE) on microsatellite data

7 genetically differentiated clusters ; re-apply PIC on these 7 clusters



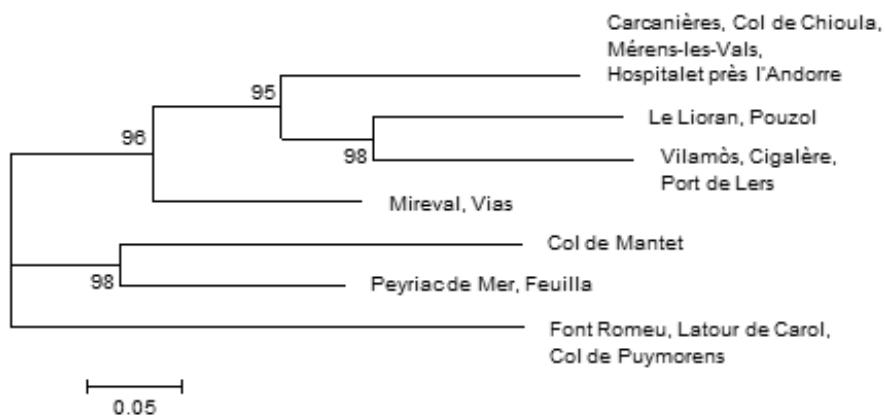
K = 7 clusters



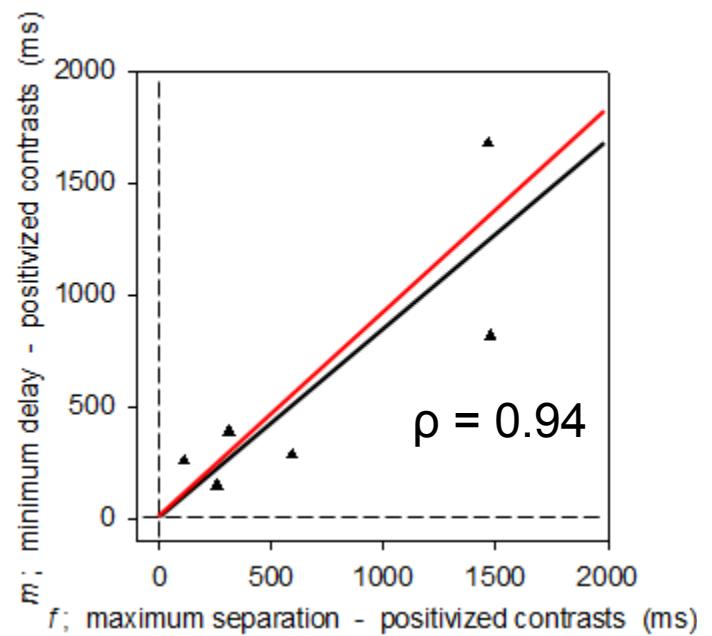
Unrooted NJ tree of 7 clusters identified with STRUCTURE

m – f correlation following PIC correction

C



D



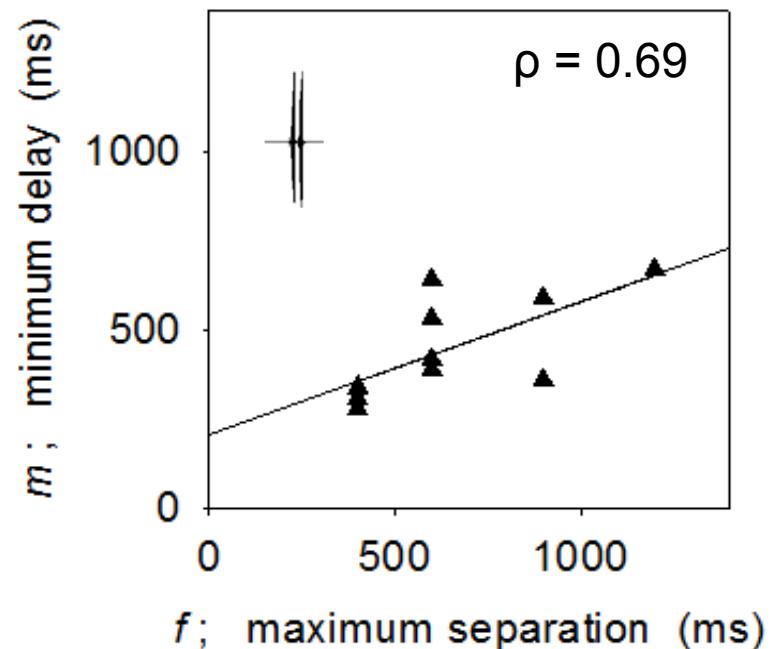
m – f correlation is not a phylogenetic artifact

Is the $m - f$ correlation among the 17 populations an artifact of other correlations ?

- b) Remove populations with long calls (≥ 3 syllables) ;
confounding correlations between f and $syl \#$ and between m and $syl \#$



$m - f$ correlation holds for the 10 populations having only 1-2 syllables per call ;
no influence of $syl \#$ on correlation



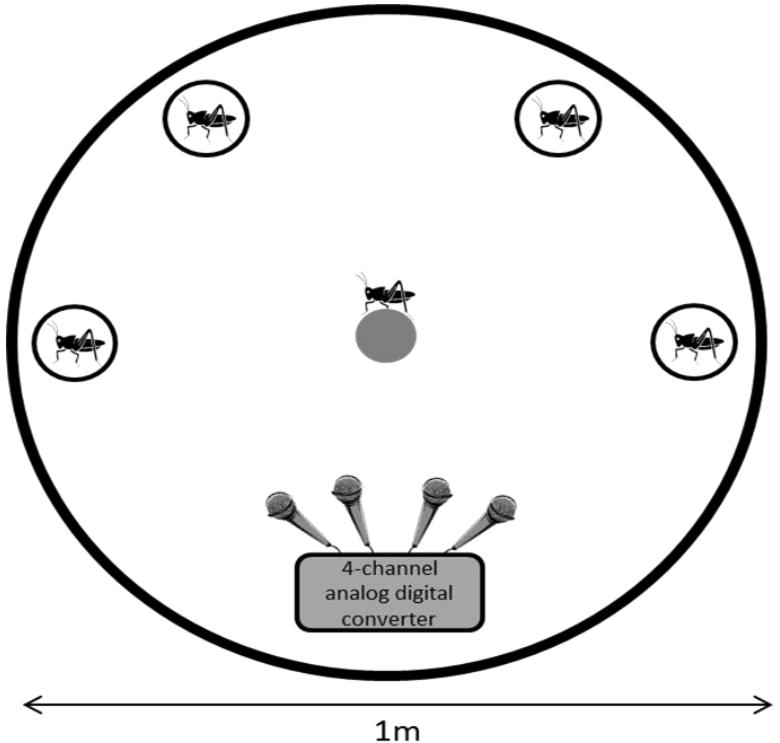
Conclusion : Male song adjustment (m) has coevolved with female perception (f)

Question 2 : Is receiver psychology (female perception of relative male call timing) important in the context of sexual selection within a chorus ?

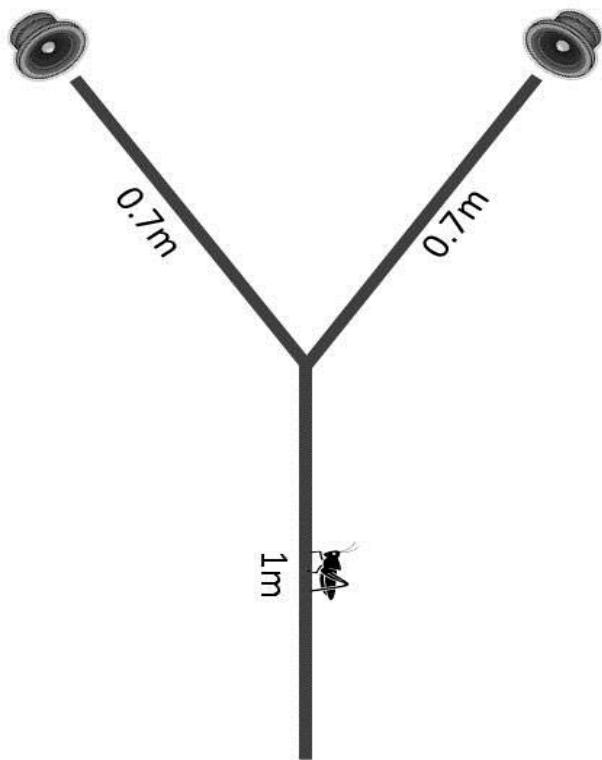
Method for testing female preferences for acoustic signal characters of males in a chorus.

The males differ in all 3 signal characters (leading calls, call rhythm, call length)

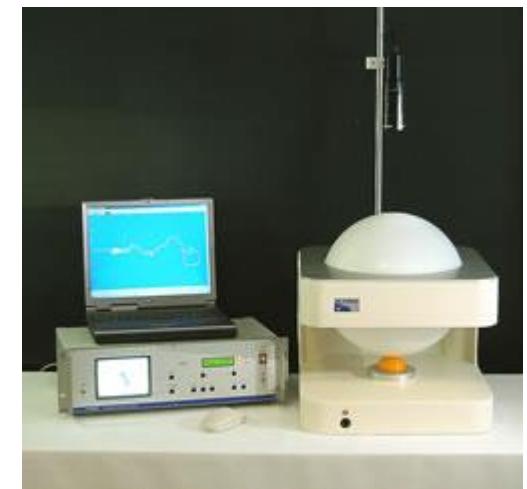
Do females pay attention to certain signal characters more than others ?



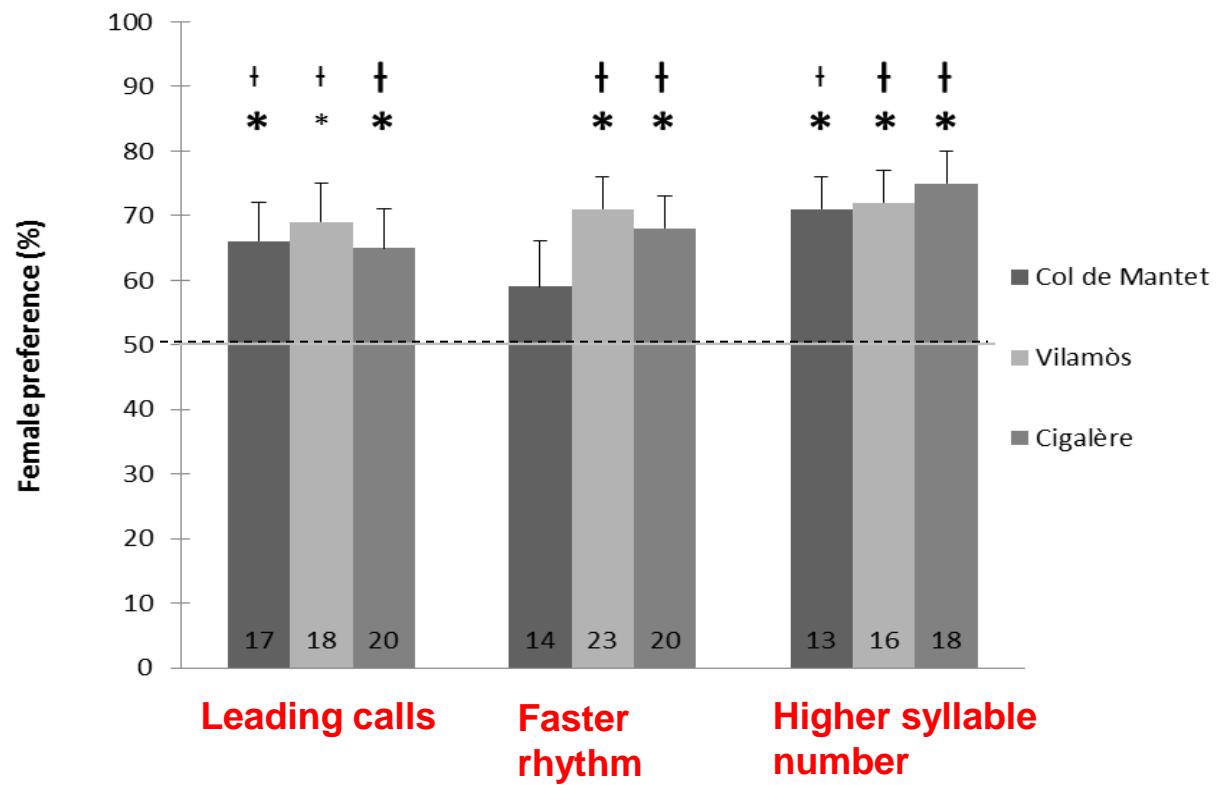
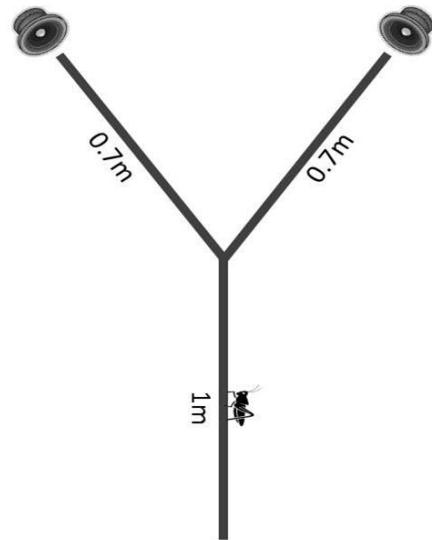
Y-maze



Kramer sphere
(open loop)

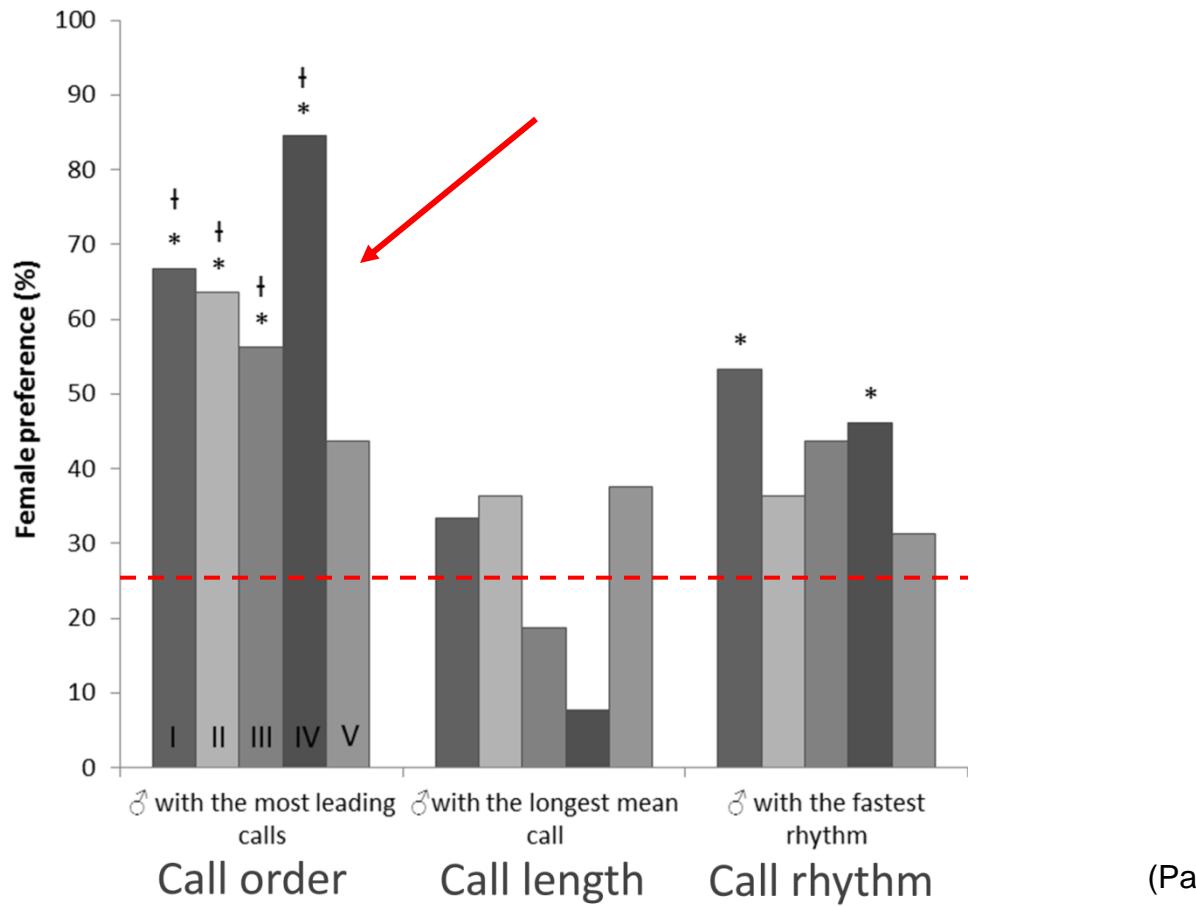


Y-maze



(Party, Brunel-Pons & Greenfield 2014)

Simple choice tests in 3 populations indicate female preferences for
1) leading calls, 2) faster rhythm, and 3) higher syllable number.



(Party et al. 2014)

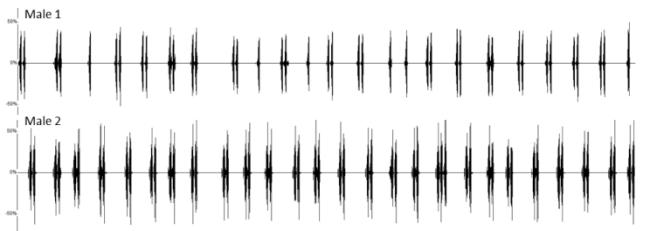
Priority of precedence : At a chorus females pay much more attention to call order than other signal characters.

Question 3 :

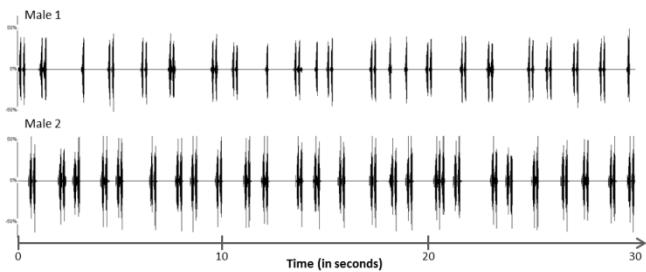
Do synchrony and alternation *per se* have adaptive value ?

3 tests of synchrony, alternation, and overlapping calls, as broadcast by chorusing males, in the context of sexual selection :

Natural chorus stimulus (Merens-les-Vals)



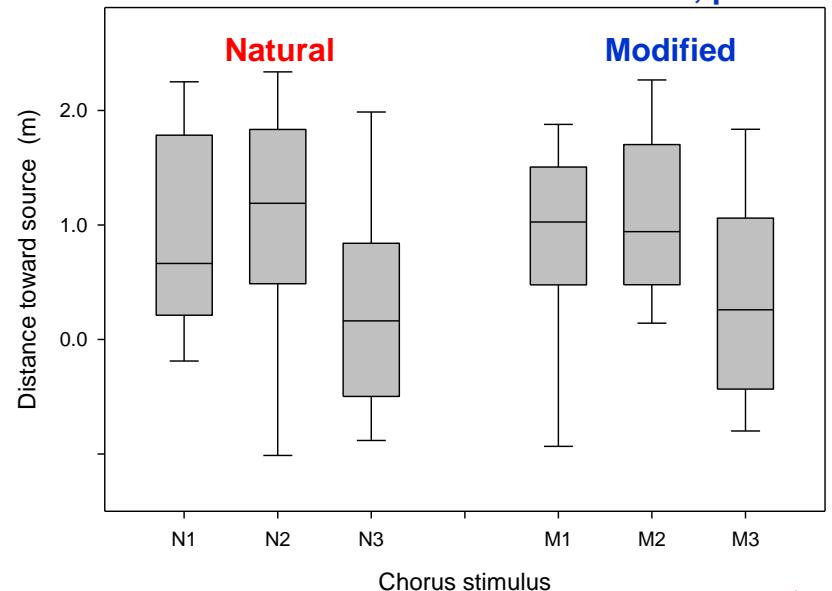
Modified chorus stimulus (Merens-les-Vals)



(Party, Streiff,
Marin-Cudraz & Greenfield 2015)

a. Merens-les-Vals

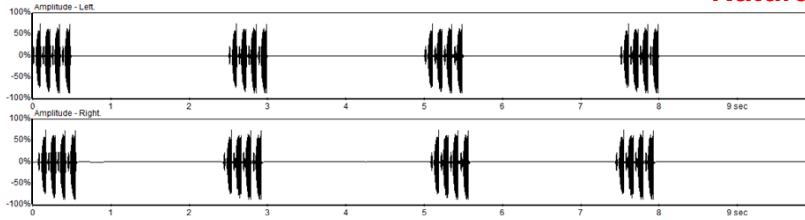
Paired t-tests ; $p > 0.75$



↑

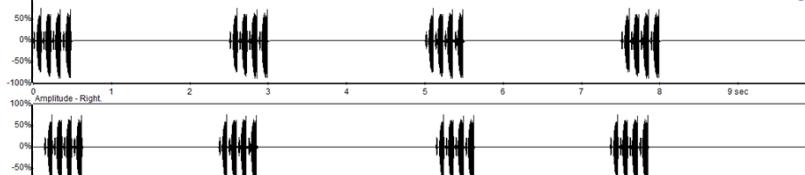
10° phase angle

Natural



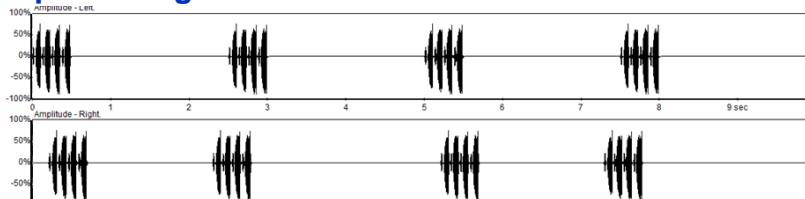
20° phase angle

Modified



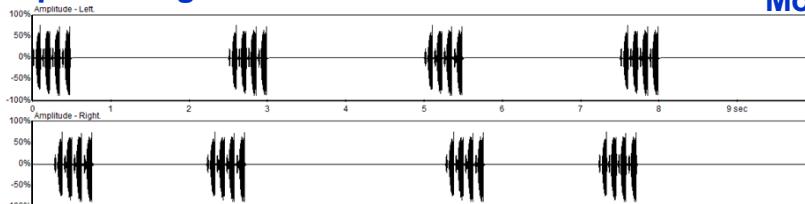
30° phase angle

Modified



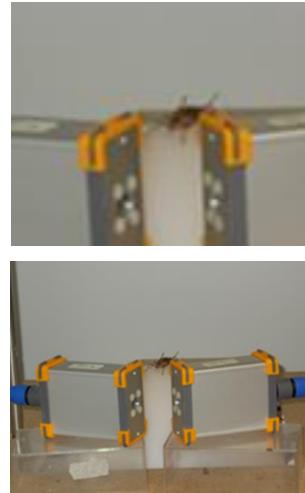
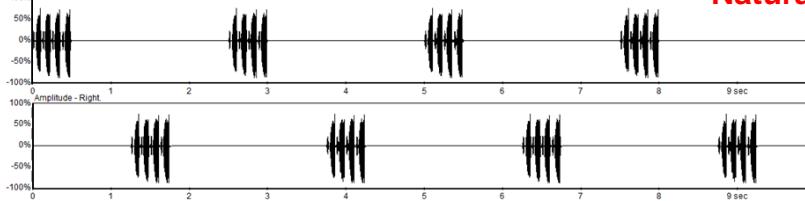
40° phase angle

Modified



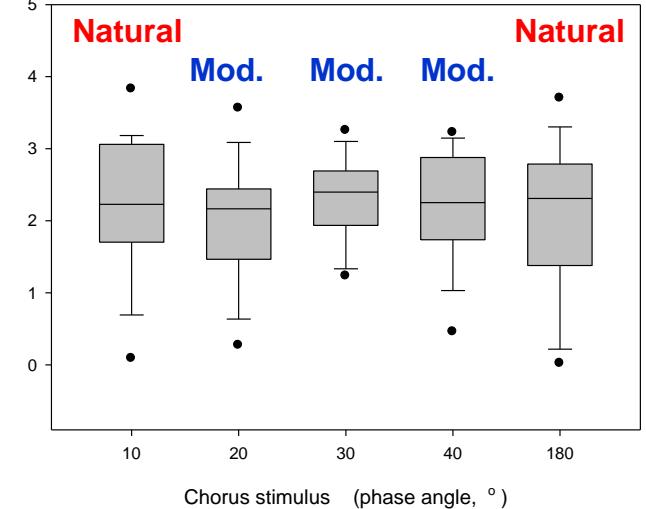
180° phase angle

Natural



b) Peyriac de Mer

Repeated-measures ANOVA ; $p = 0.53$

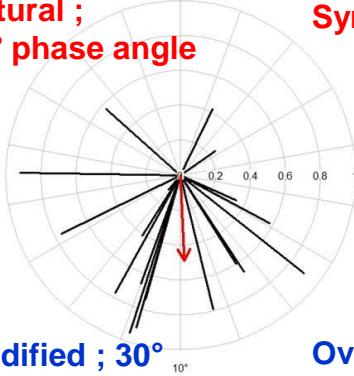


2. Levels of female response to natural (alternating and synchronous phase angles) and to modified chorus stimuli (overlapping phase angles) ;
single stimulus tests on Kramer sphere ;

Result : Differential responses to natural and modified chorus stimuli not observed (power = 0.82)

Merens-les-Vals

Natural ;
10° phase angle

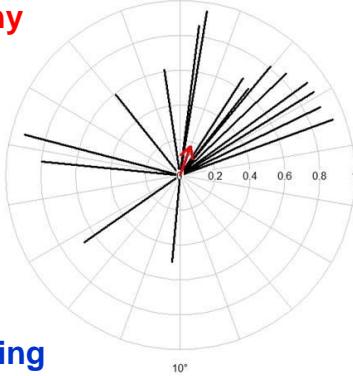


Synchrony

Modified ; 30°
10° Overlapping

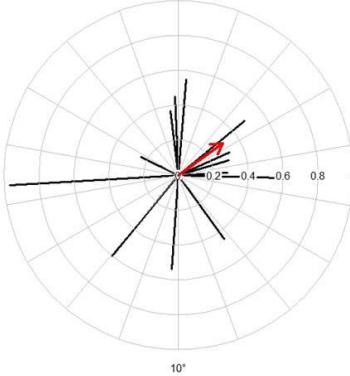
Mireval

30°

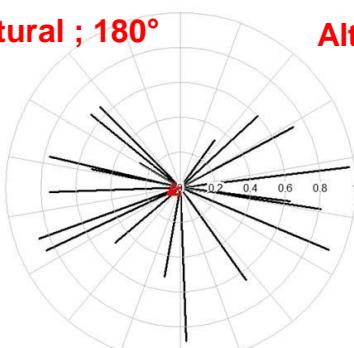


Vilamòs

30°



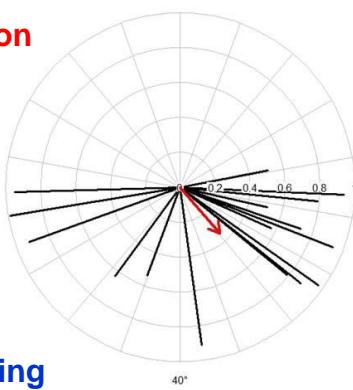
Natural ; 180°



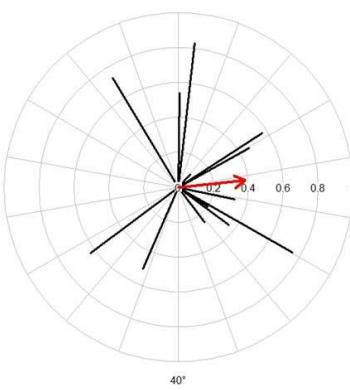
Alternation

Modified ; 40°
40° Overlapping

Mireval - 40° phase angle vs 180° phase angle
180°



Vilamòs - 40° phase angle vs 180° phase angle
180°



Result :

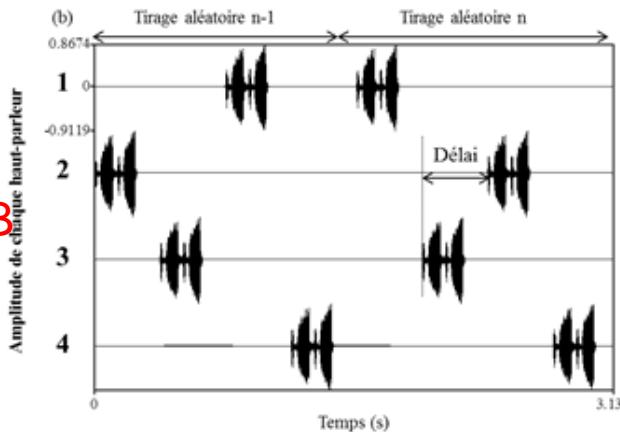
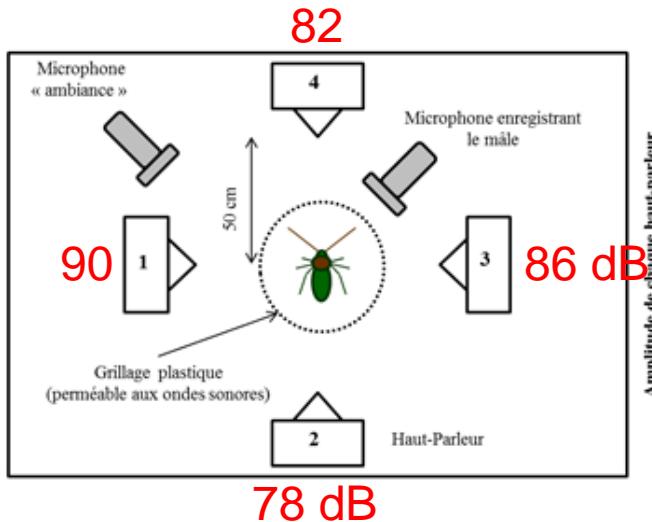
Overall preference for natural chorus stimuli not observed (Rayleigh and V-tests).

3. Female preference for natural (alternating or synchronous phase angles) vs modified chorus stimuli (overlapping phase angles) ; choice tests on Kramer sphere ;

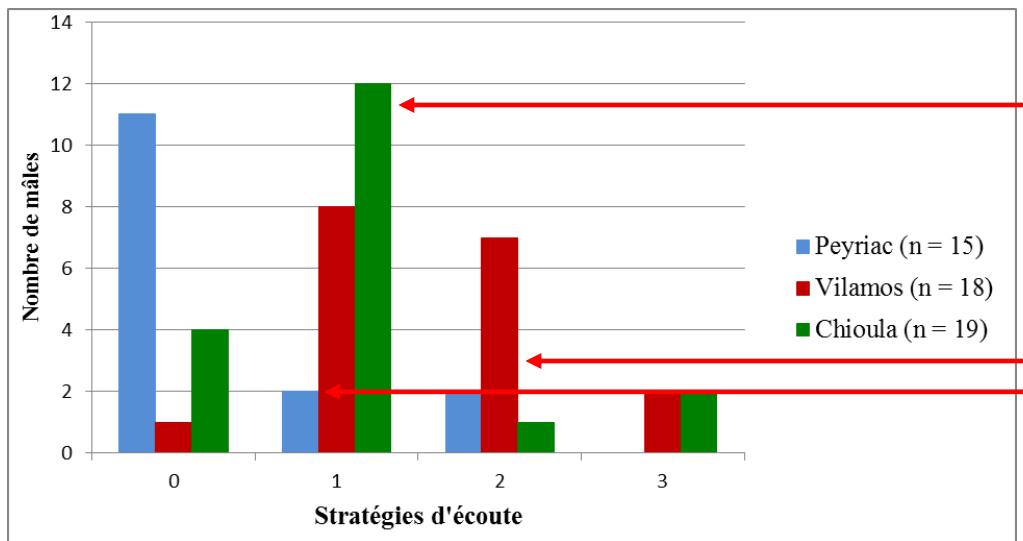


Question 4 :

Is chorusing under central control ?

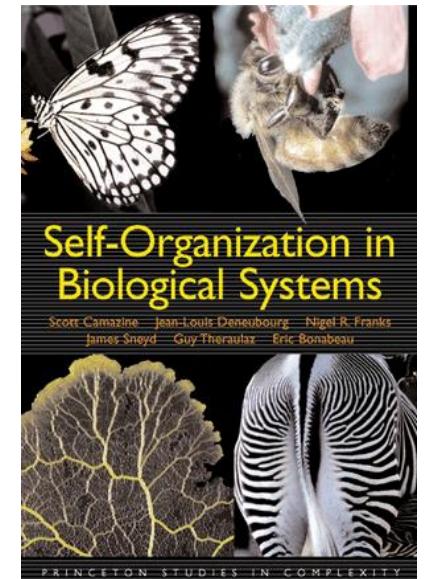


82 78 74 70 dB

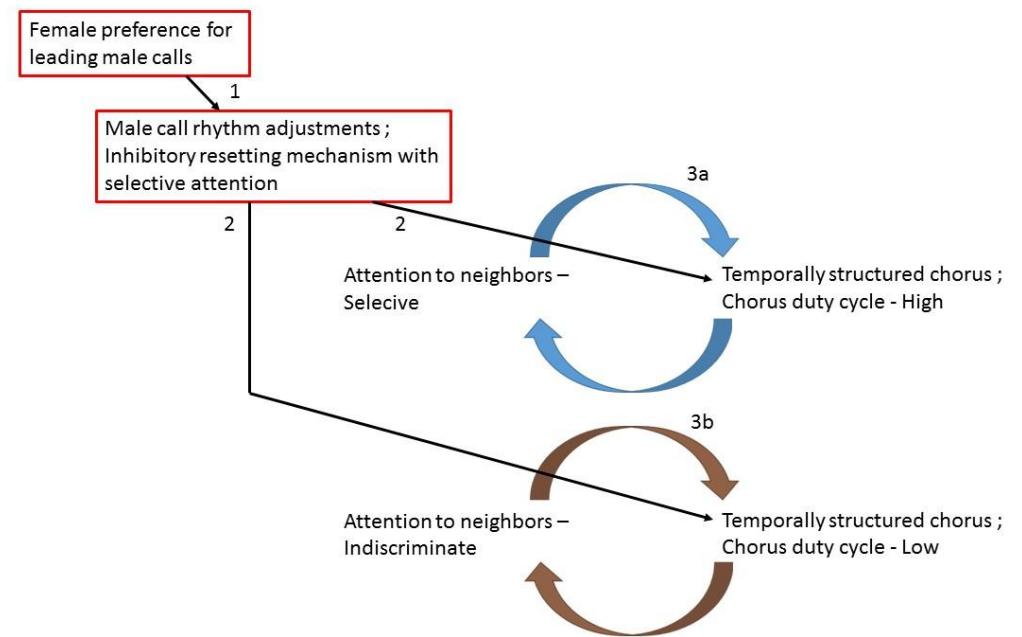
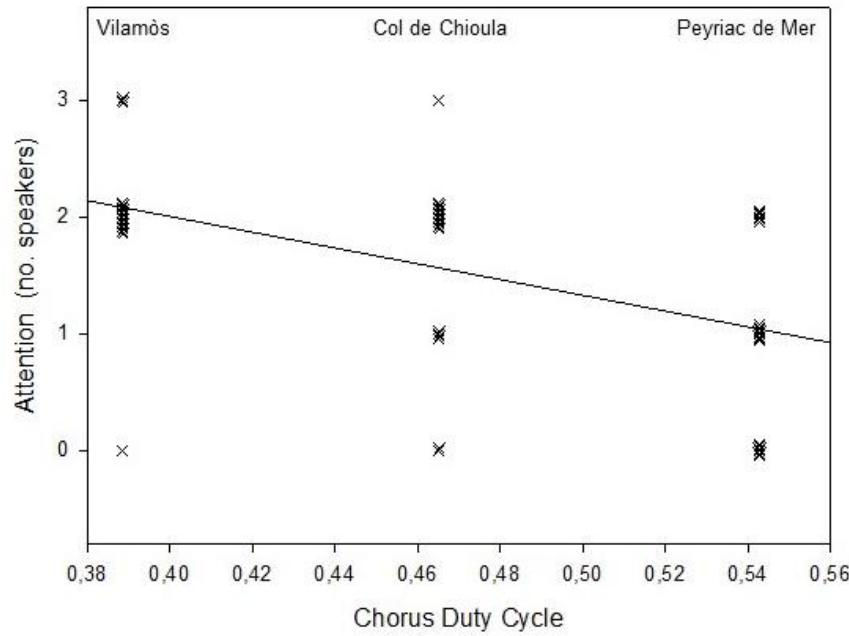


At Col de Chioula, most males pay attention to only one neighbor (90)

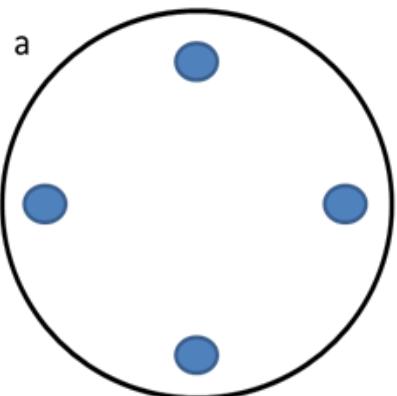
At Vilamós, most males pay attention to one or two neighbors (90, 86)



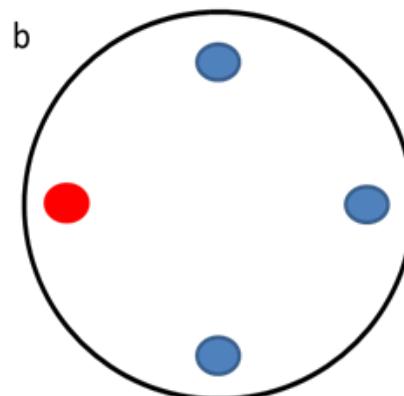
Order emerges from chaos !



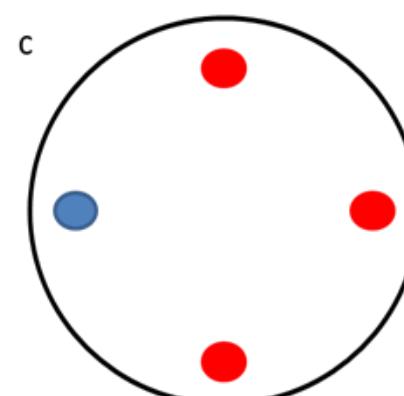
Question 5 : Will a population's chorusing format impede or enhance gene flow following secondary contact between populations ?



chorus: UNI

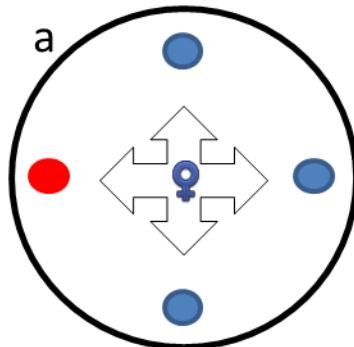


chorus: MAX

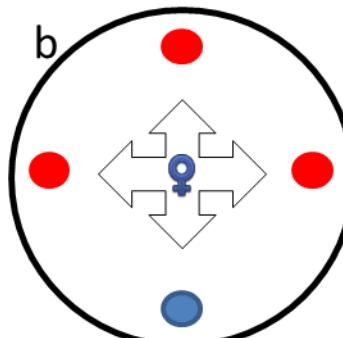


chorus: MIN

FR	vs	MER
Caractéristiques acoustiques		
➤ Nombre de syllabes		
➤ Durée moyenne des phrases (ms)		
➤ Intervalle d'émission (ms)		



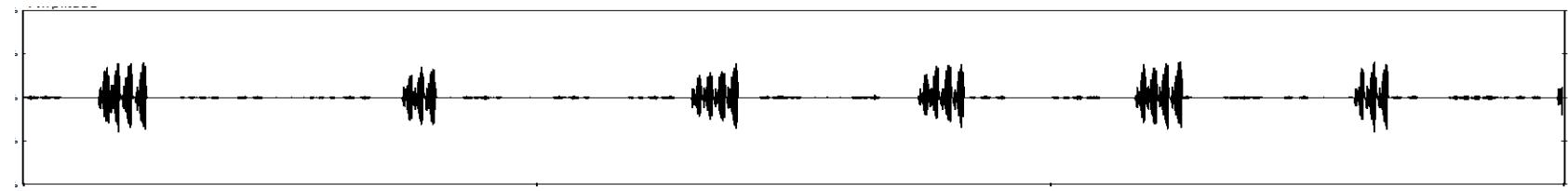
Choix femelle:
Chorus MAX



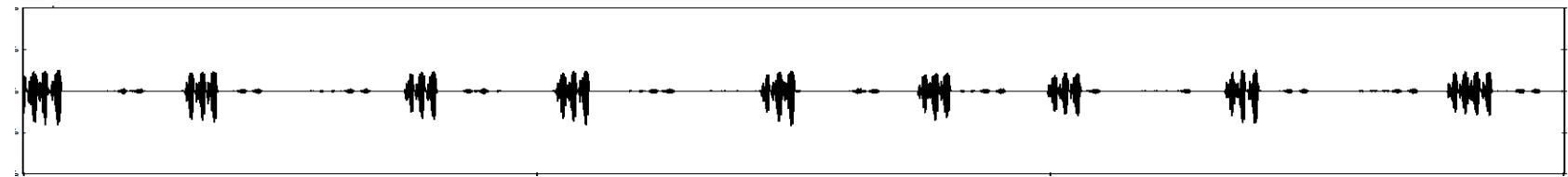
Choix femelle:
Chorus MIN

a

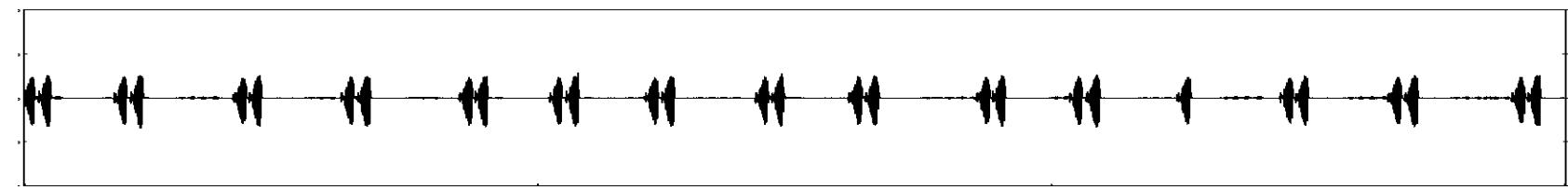
1 FR



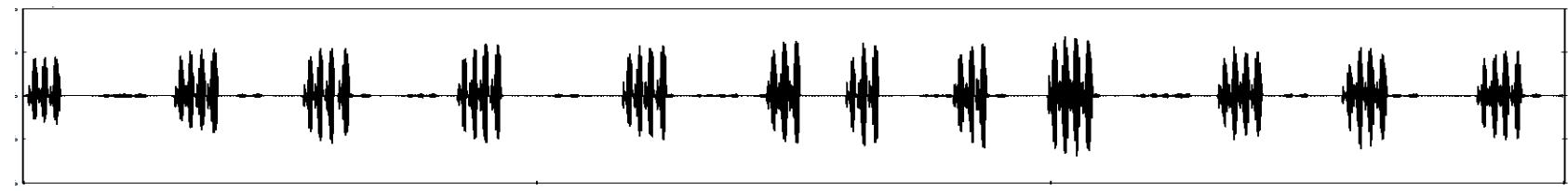
2
FR



3
MER



4
FR



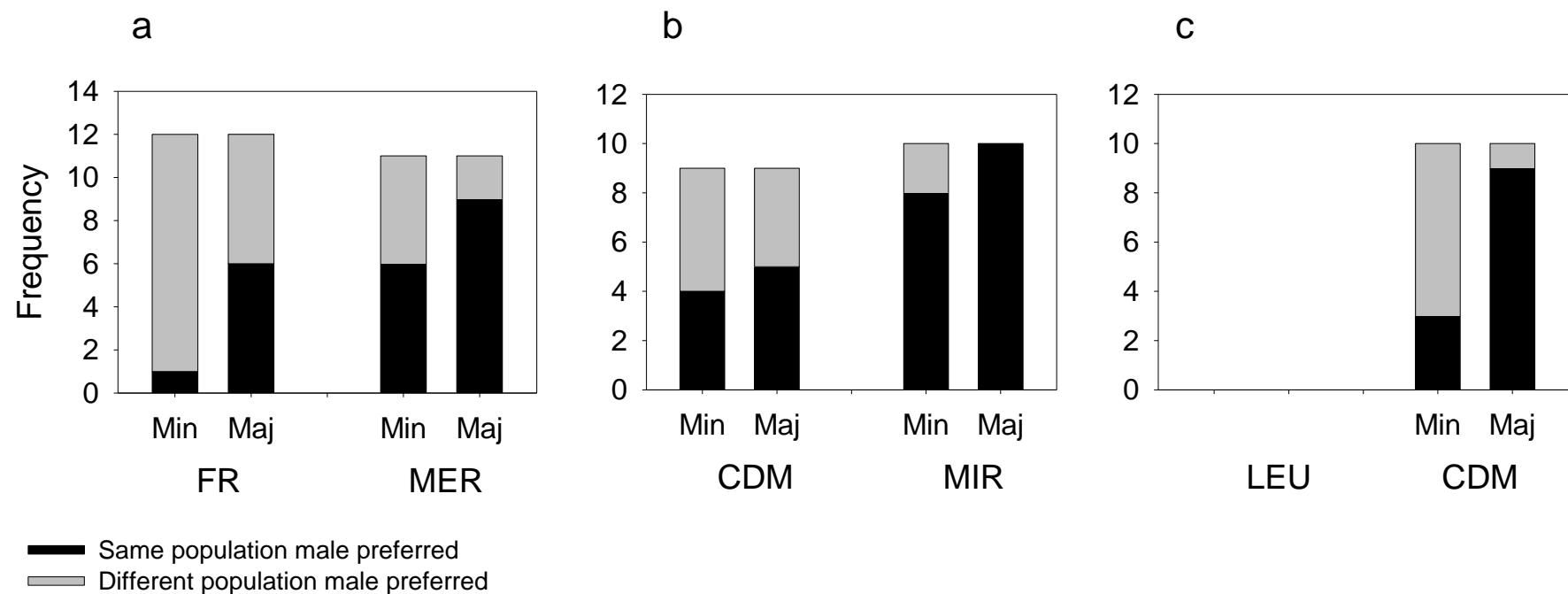
0

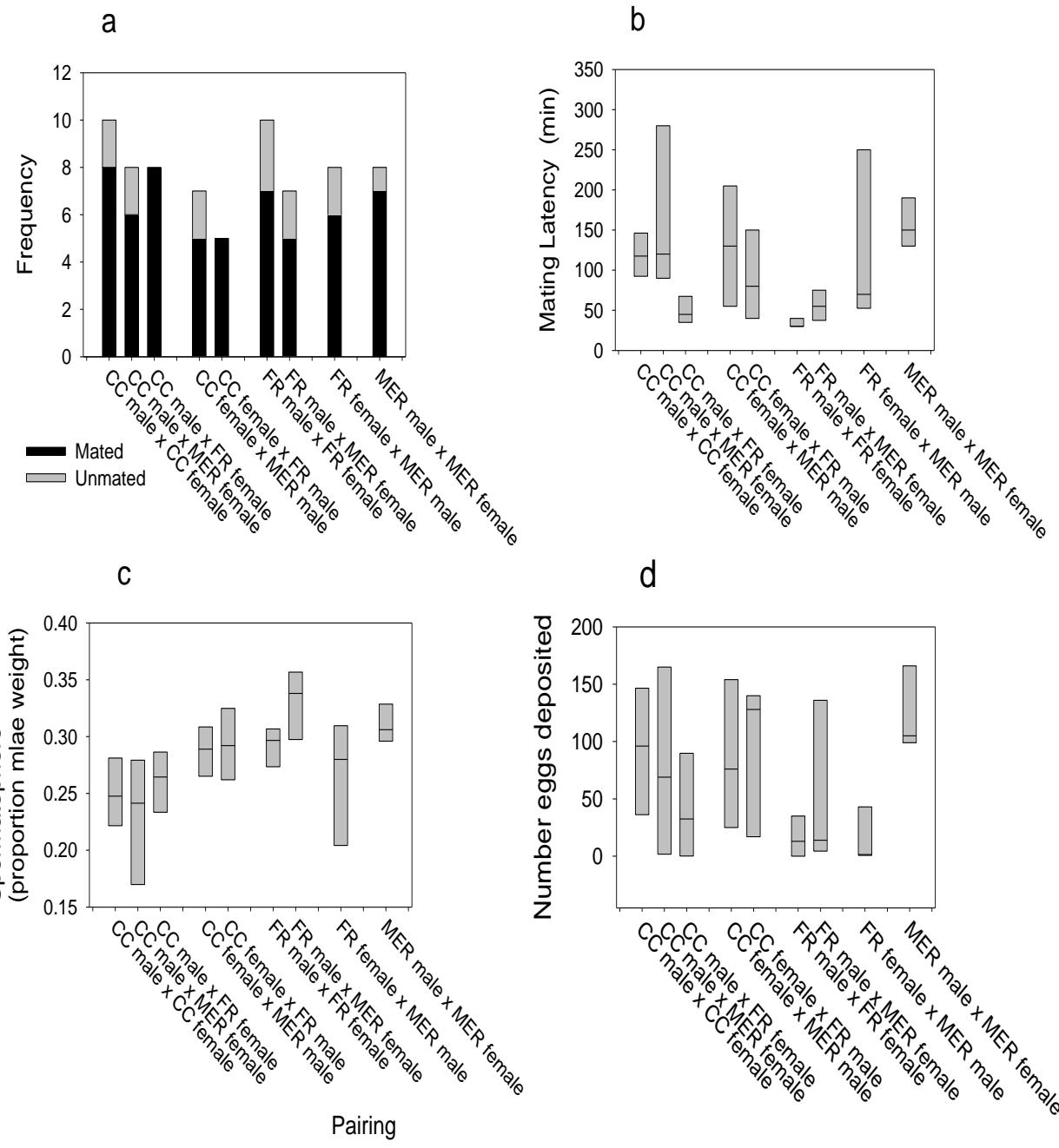
5

10

15

Time
(s)

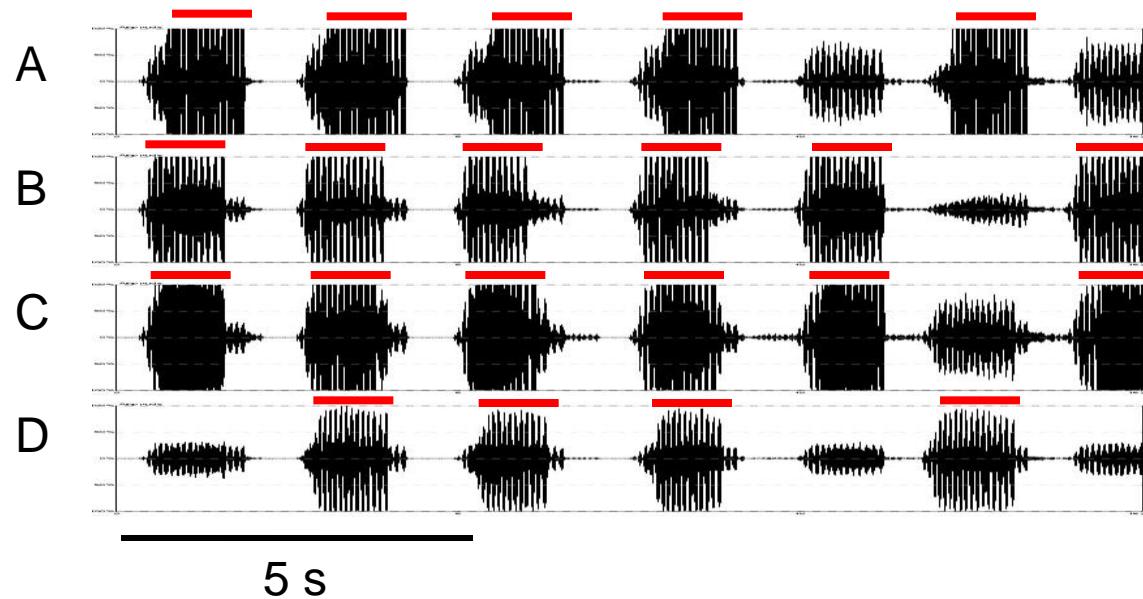




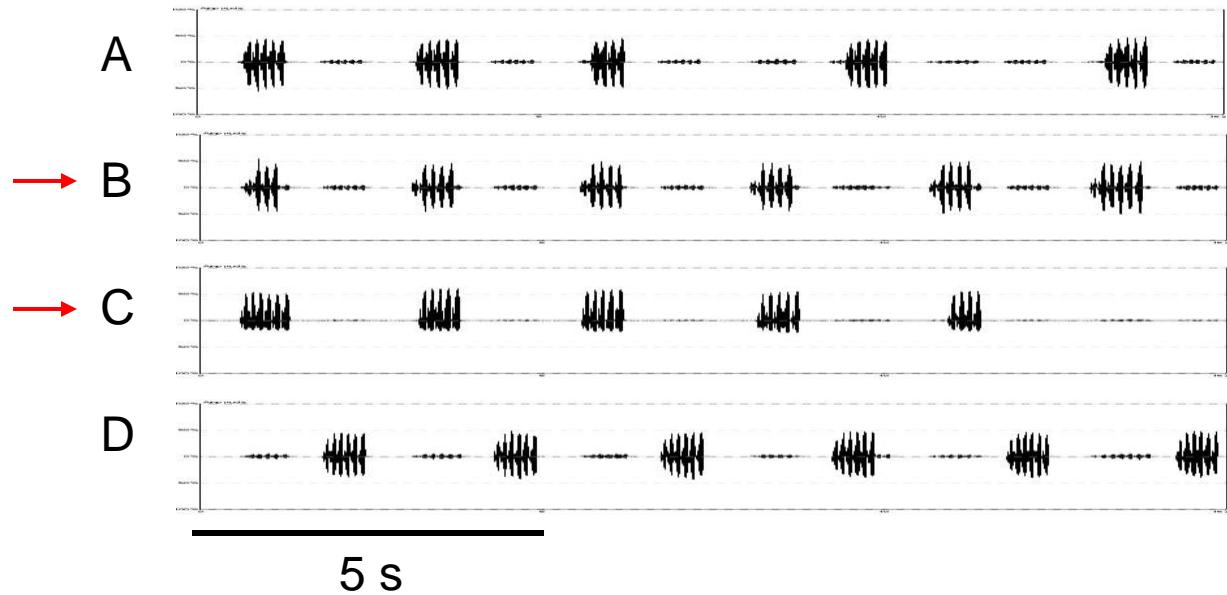
Question 6 : What is true synchrony ? Does it exist ?

Tettigoniidae ; Bradyporinae

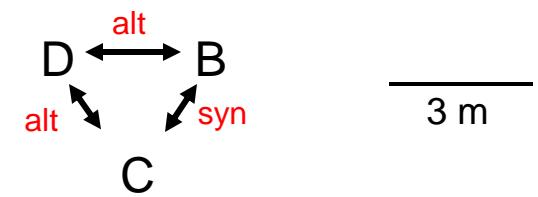
individual



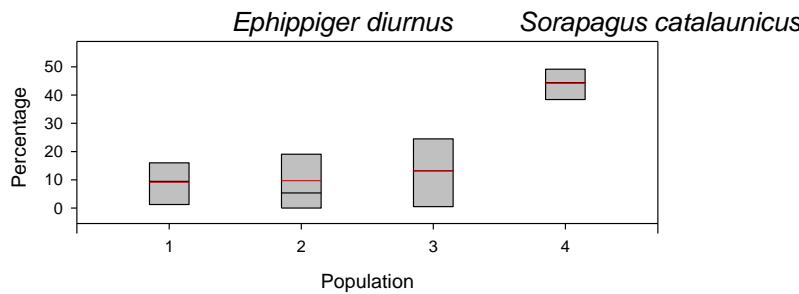
Sorapagus catalaunicus
Synchrony



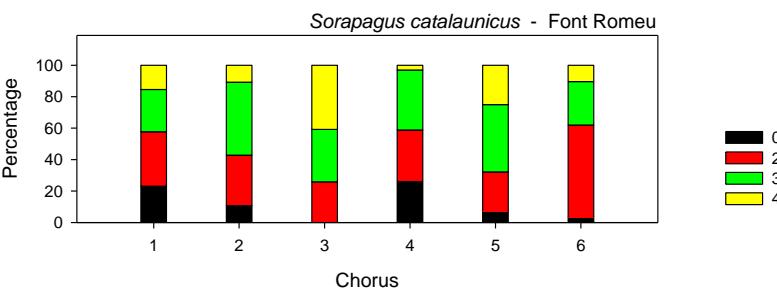
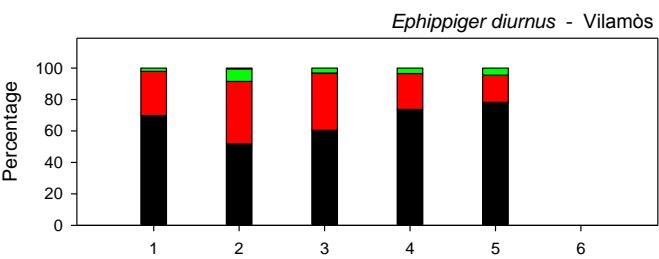
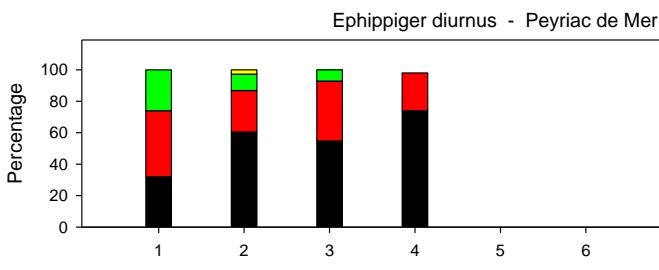
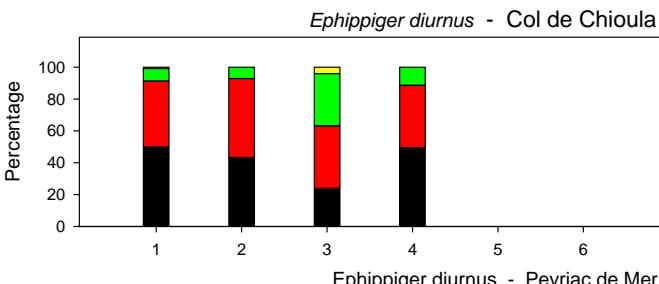
Ephippiger diurnus
Alternation + Synchrony



Synchrony - 2 male choruses

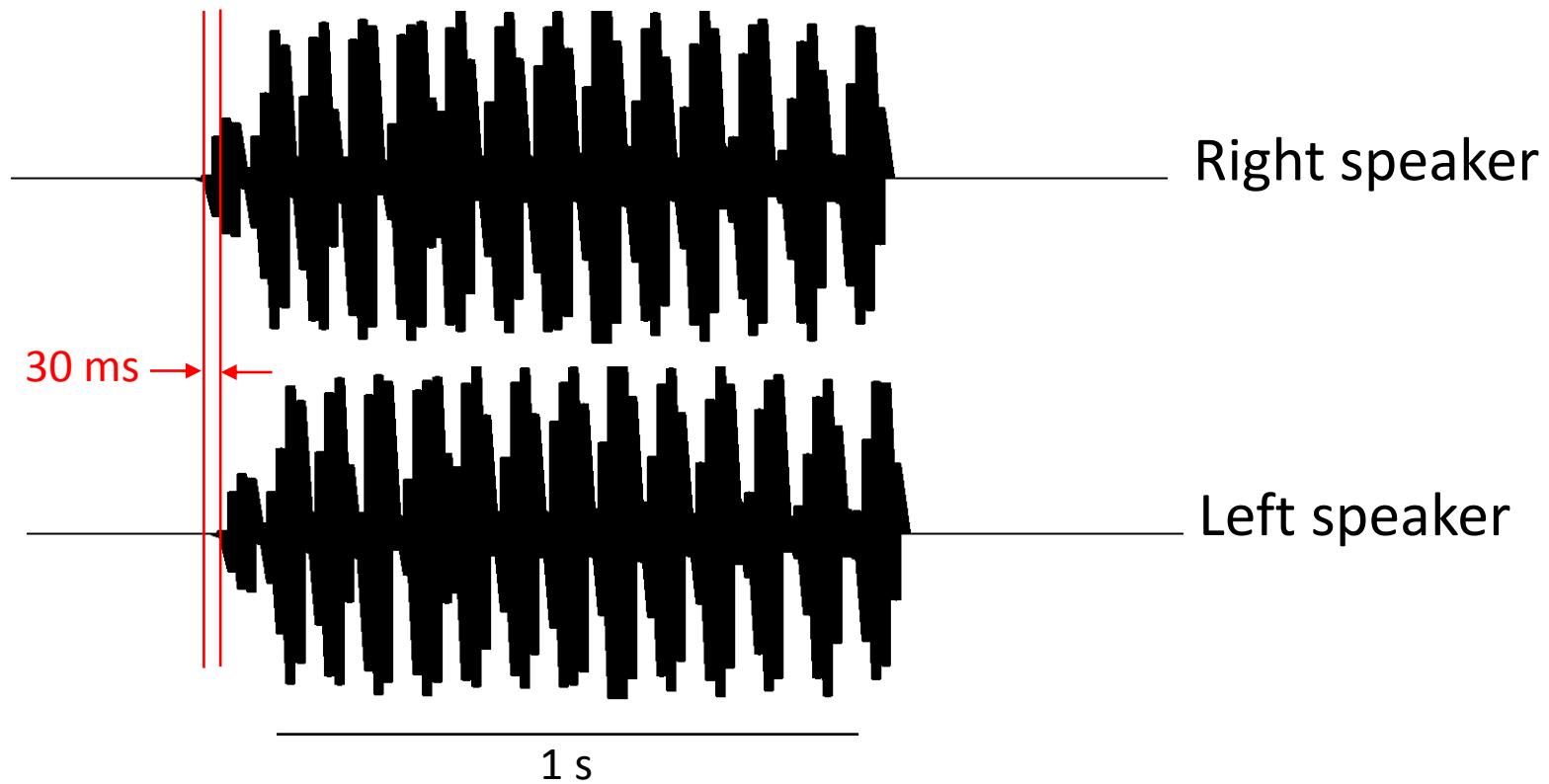


Synchrony - 4 male choruses



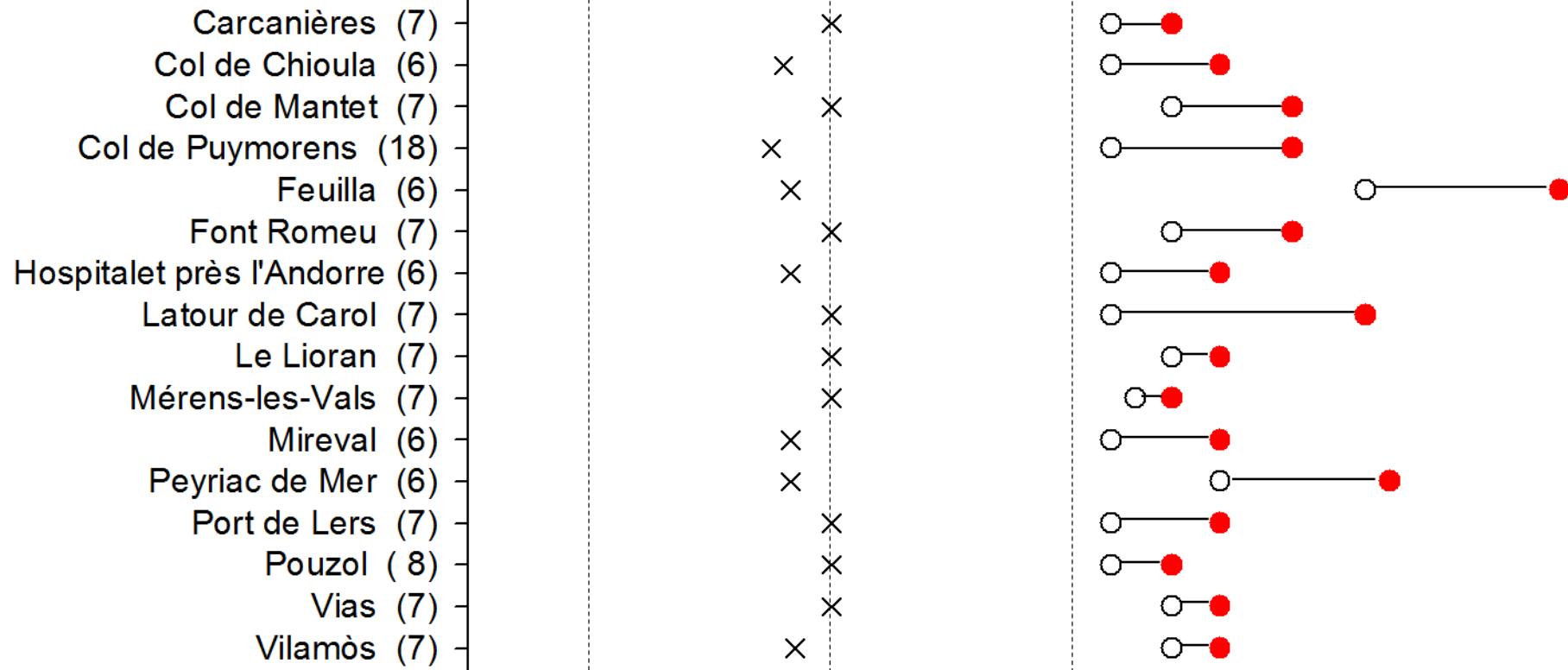
a

Playback - precedence effect - *Sorapagus catalaunicus*



Precedence effect

Ephippiger diurnus



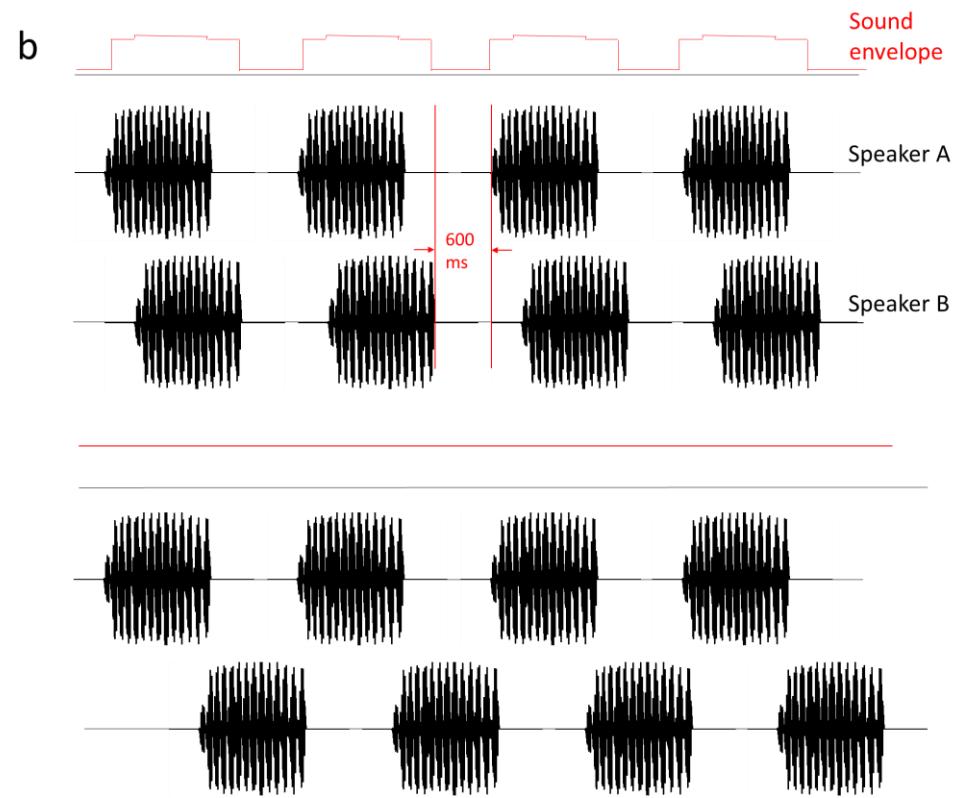
Sorapagus catalaunicus

Font Romeu (18)

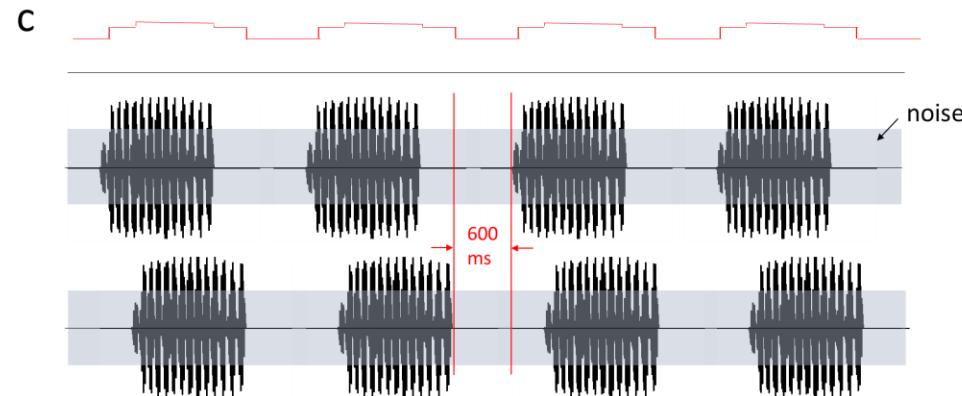
Strength

Extent (ms)

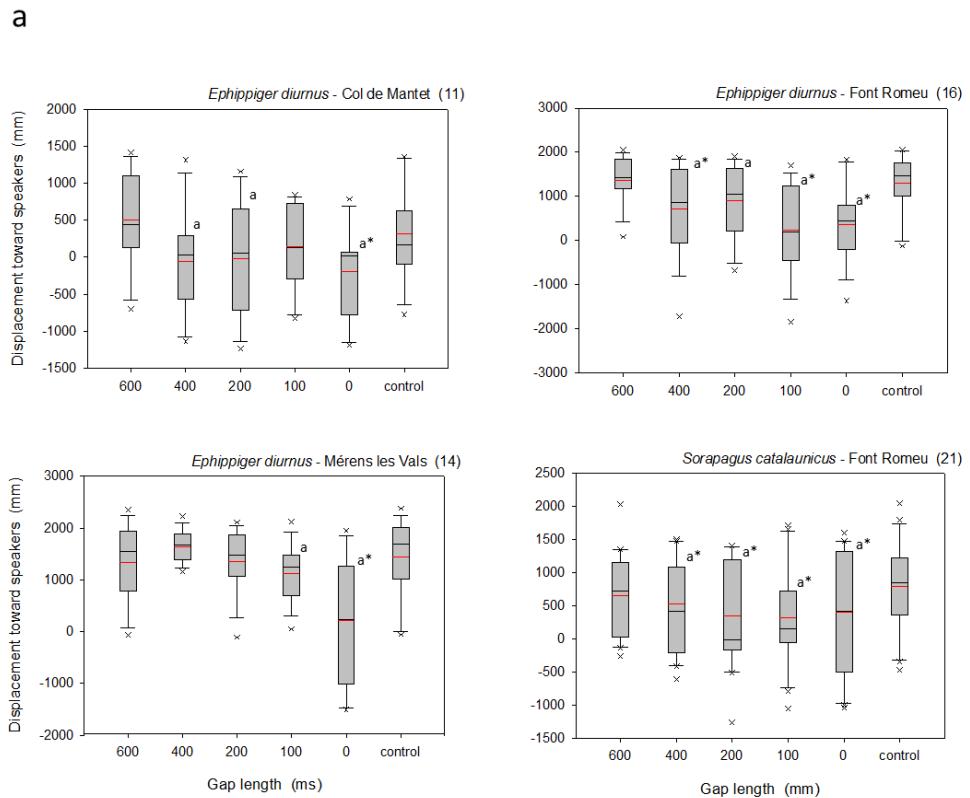
Playback - gap length



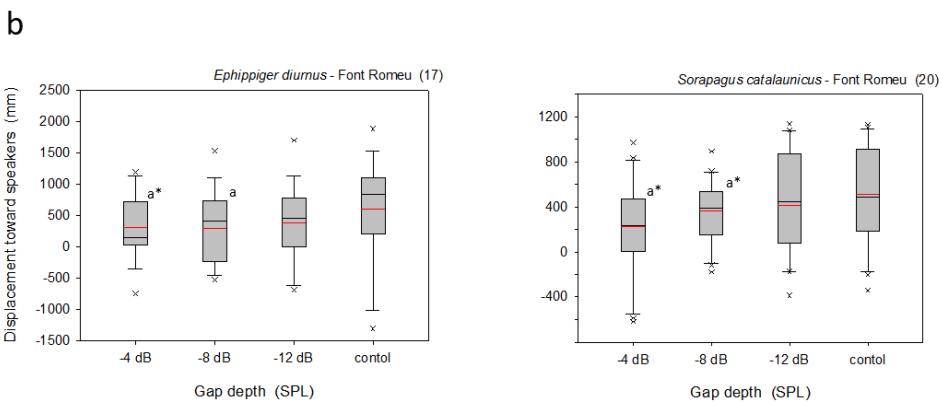
Playback - gap depth



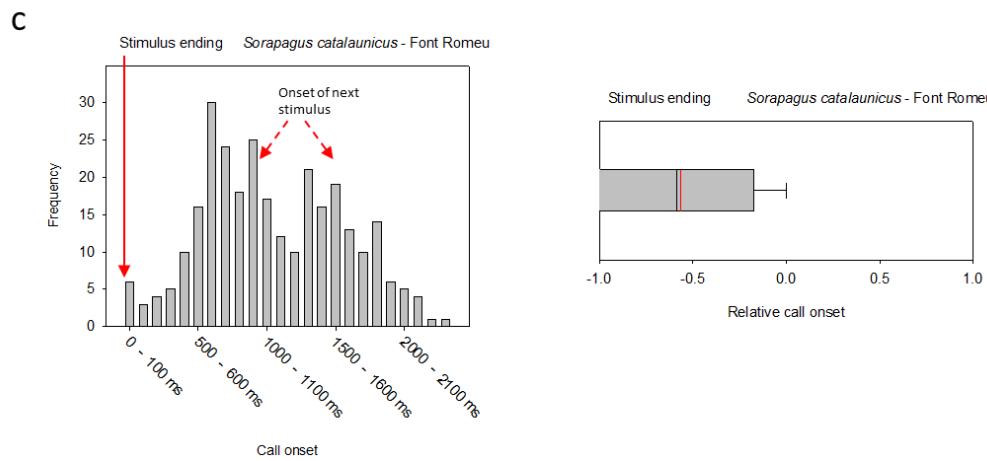
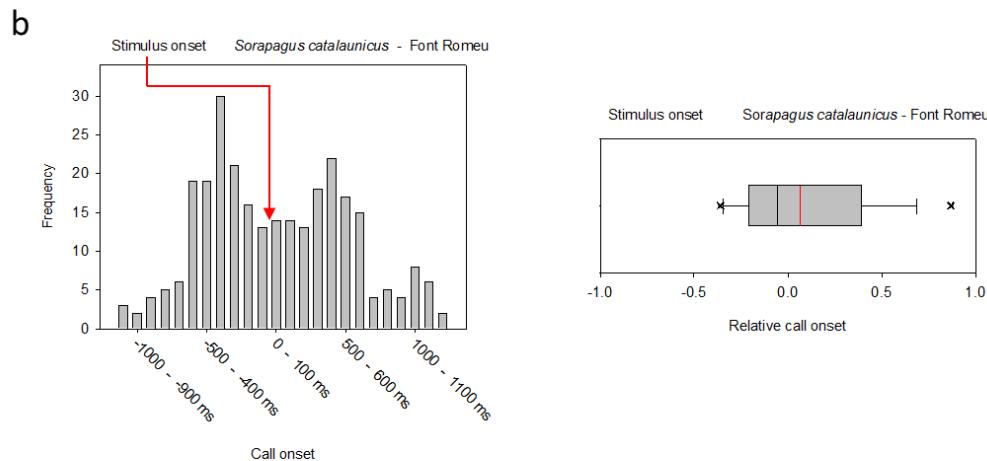
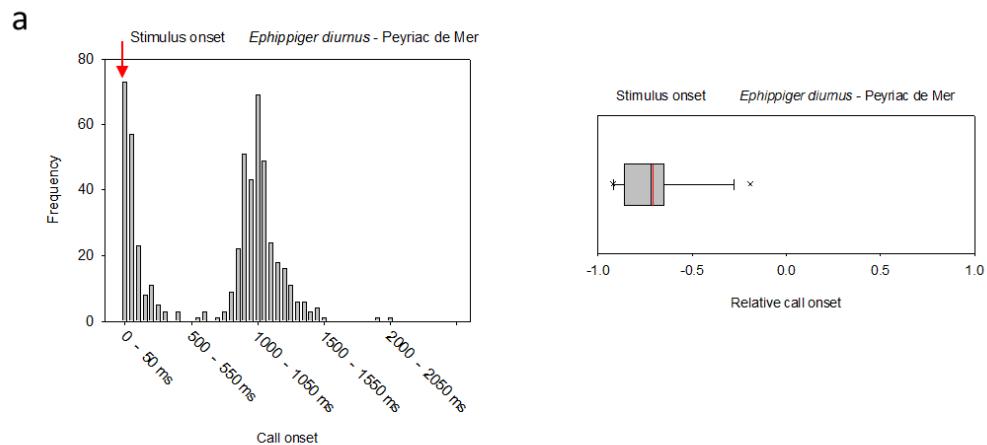
Gap Length



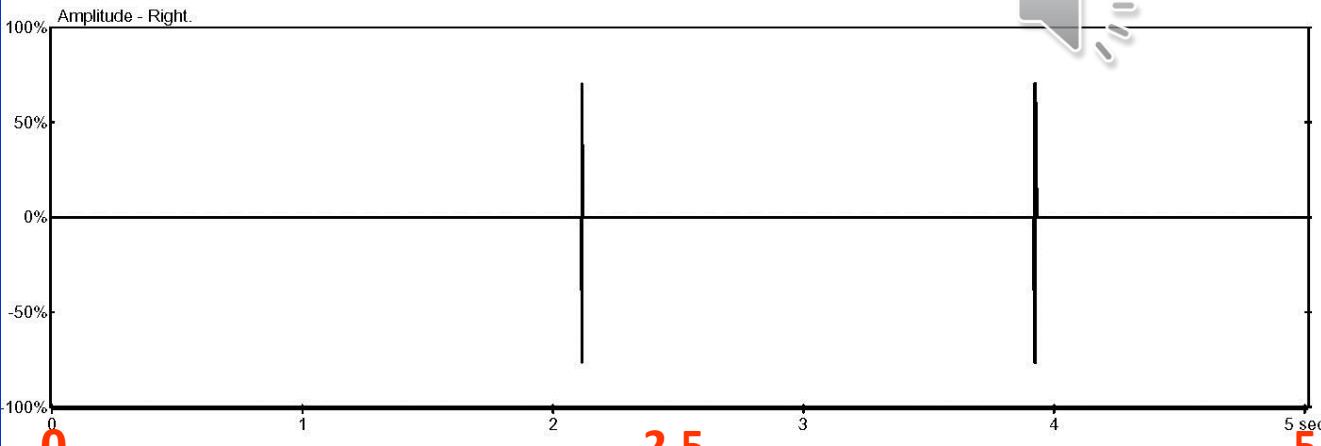
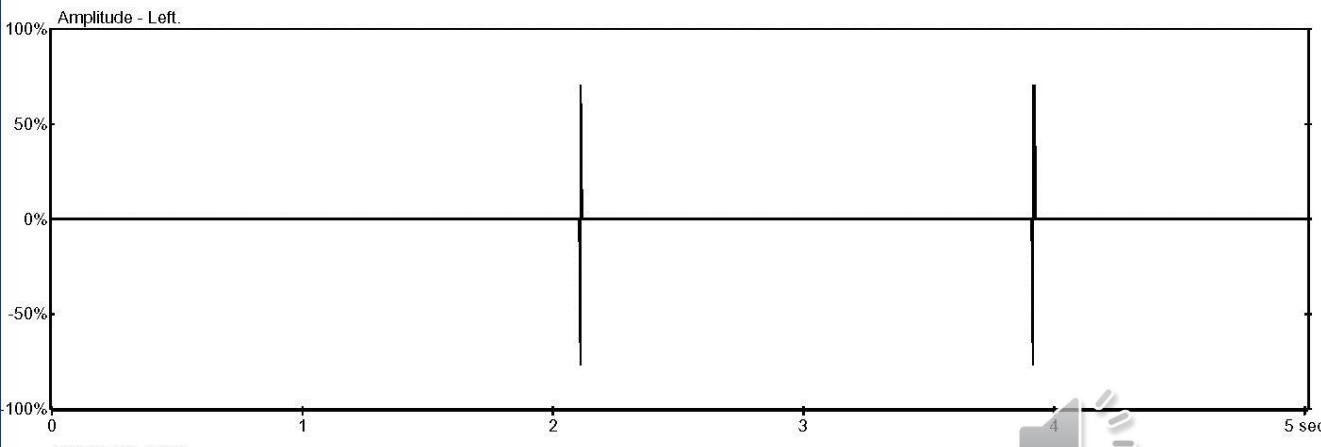
Gap Depth



Relative call timing



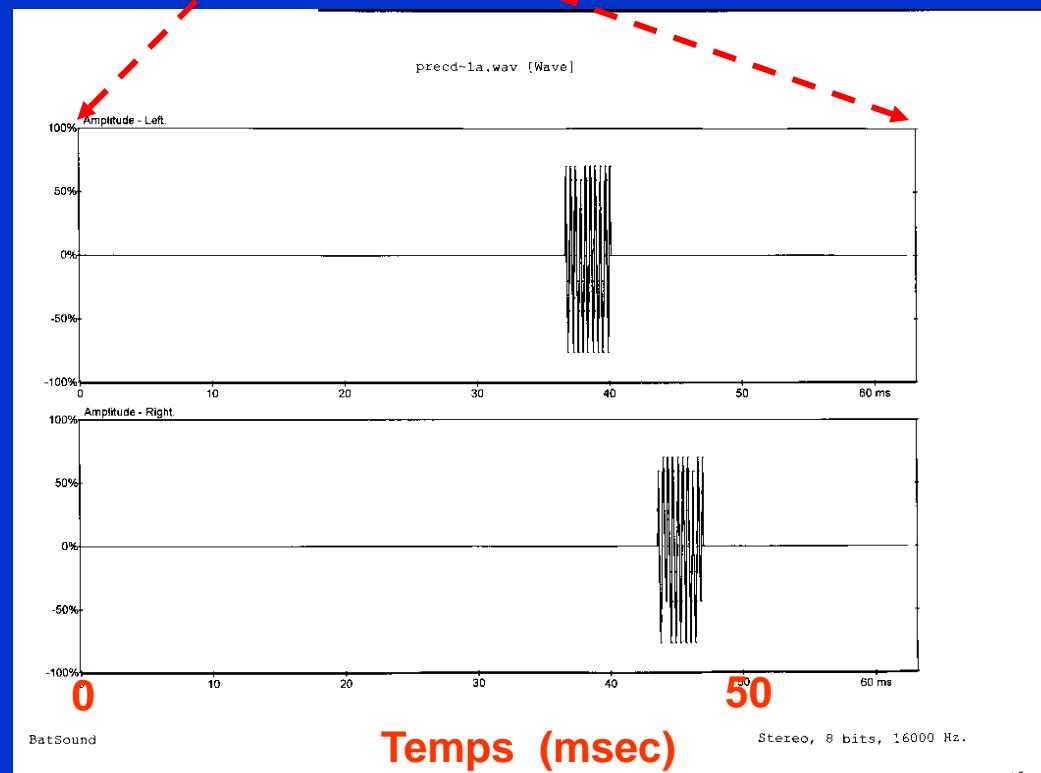
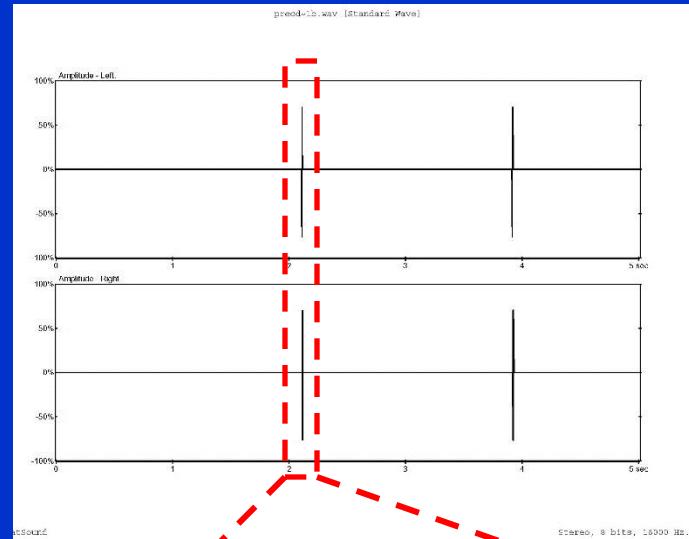
precd~1b.wav [Standard Wave]



Temps (sec)

G

D



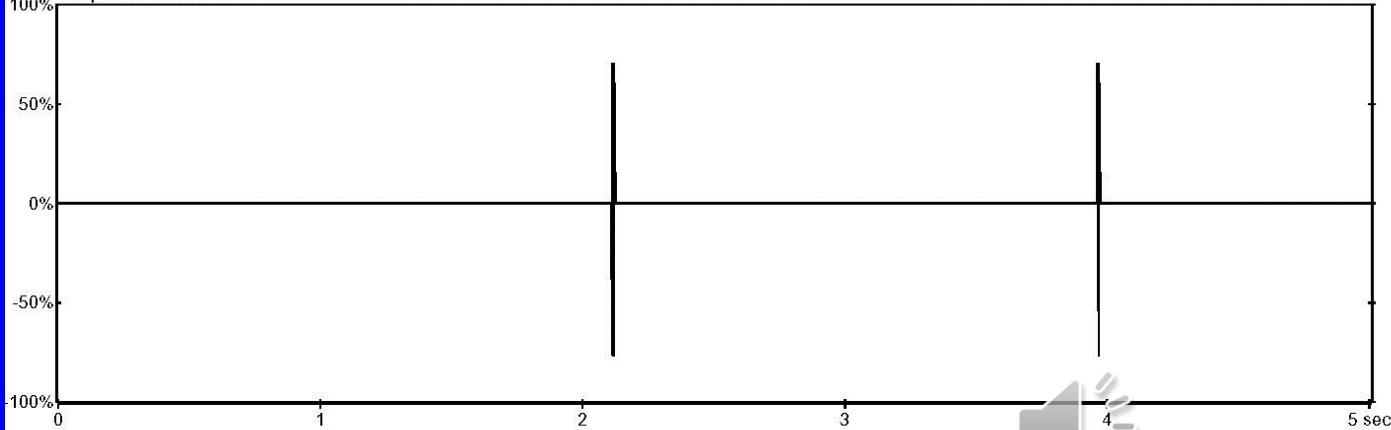
Precedence effect :

Localization of the first of 2 (or more) sounds that are separated by a brief interval.

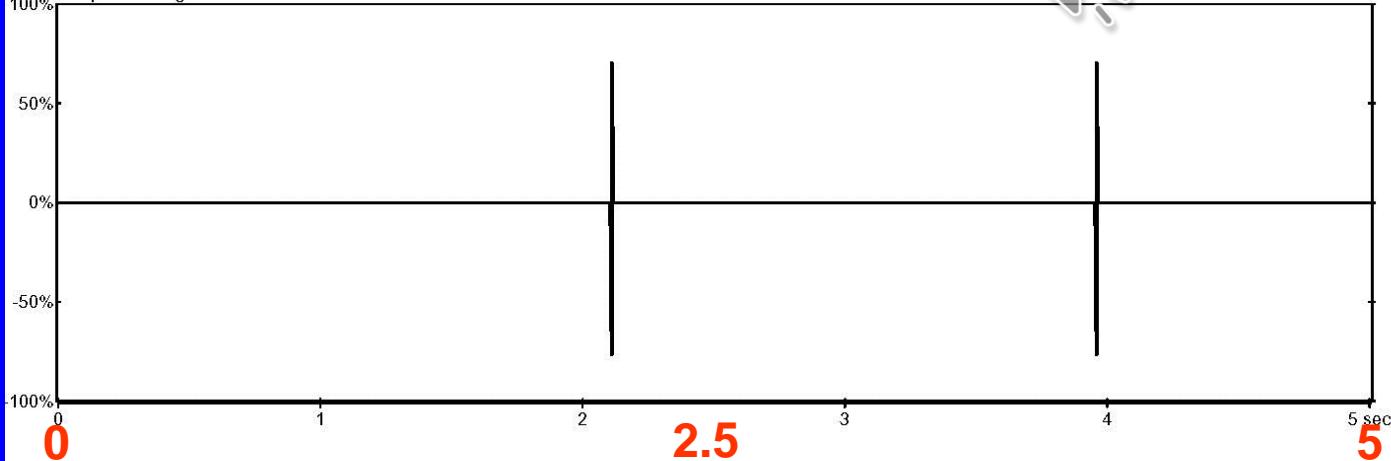
Left channel is the leader (by 7 ms).

precd~2b.wav [Standard Wave]

Amplitude - Left.



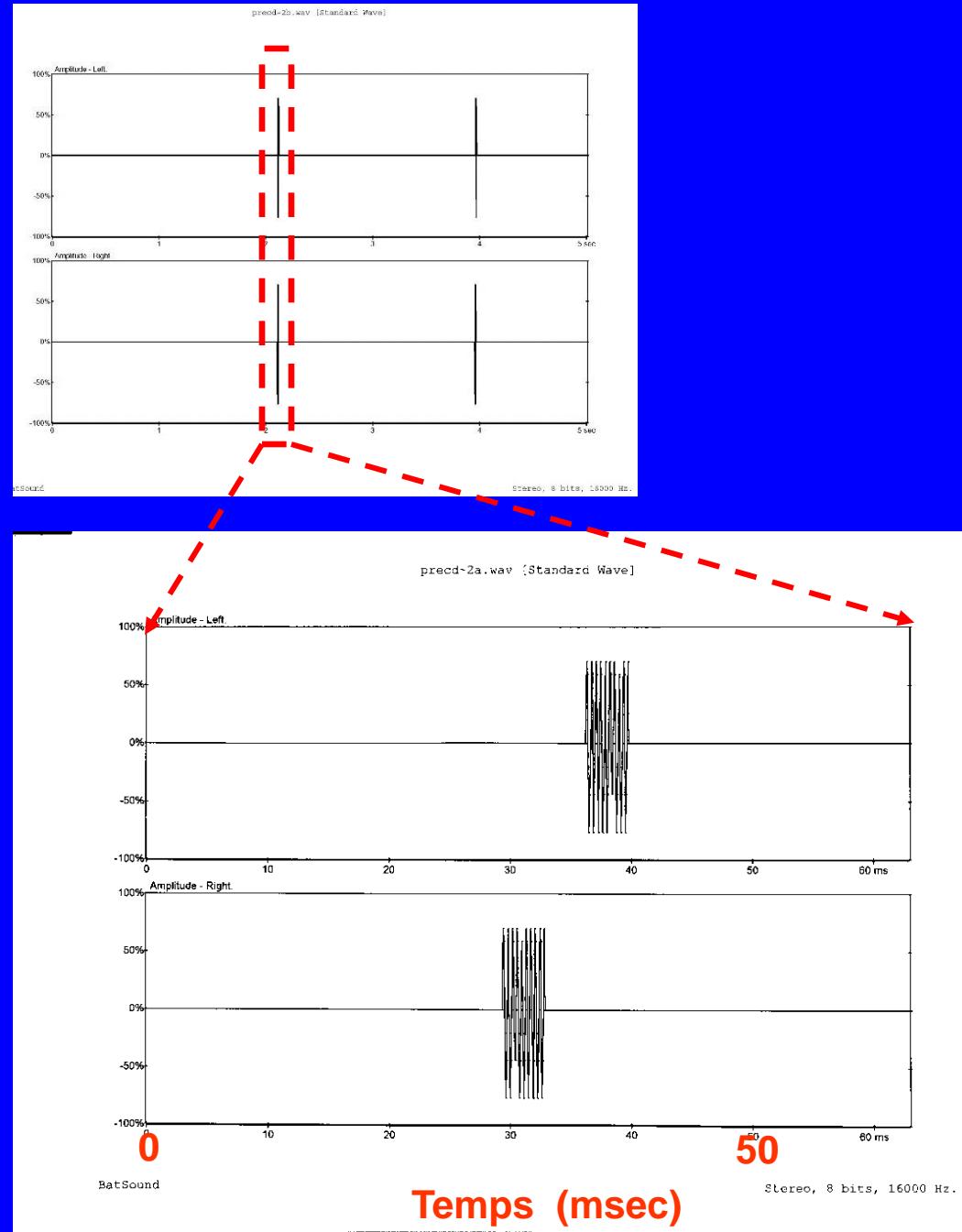
Amplitude - Right.



Temps (sec)

G

D



Canal à la droite est le premier

Le groupe 'Montpellier'



Réjane Streiff (CBGP)



Yareli Esquer-Garrigos

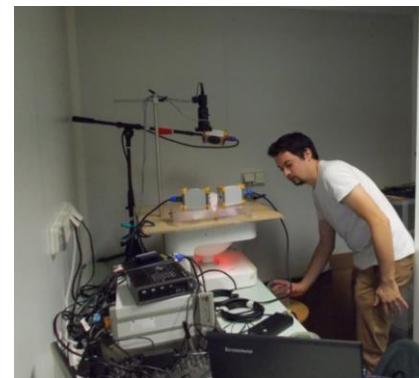
Le groupe 'Tours – St. Etienne'



Virginie Party



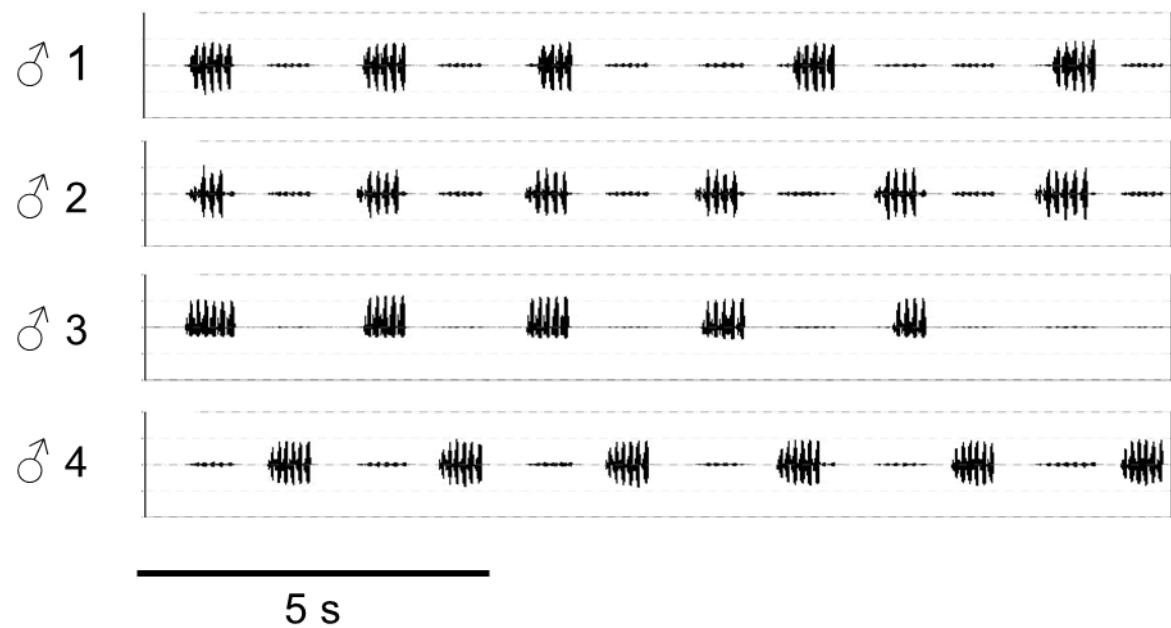
Mathieu Mahamoud-Issa

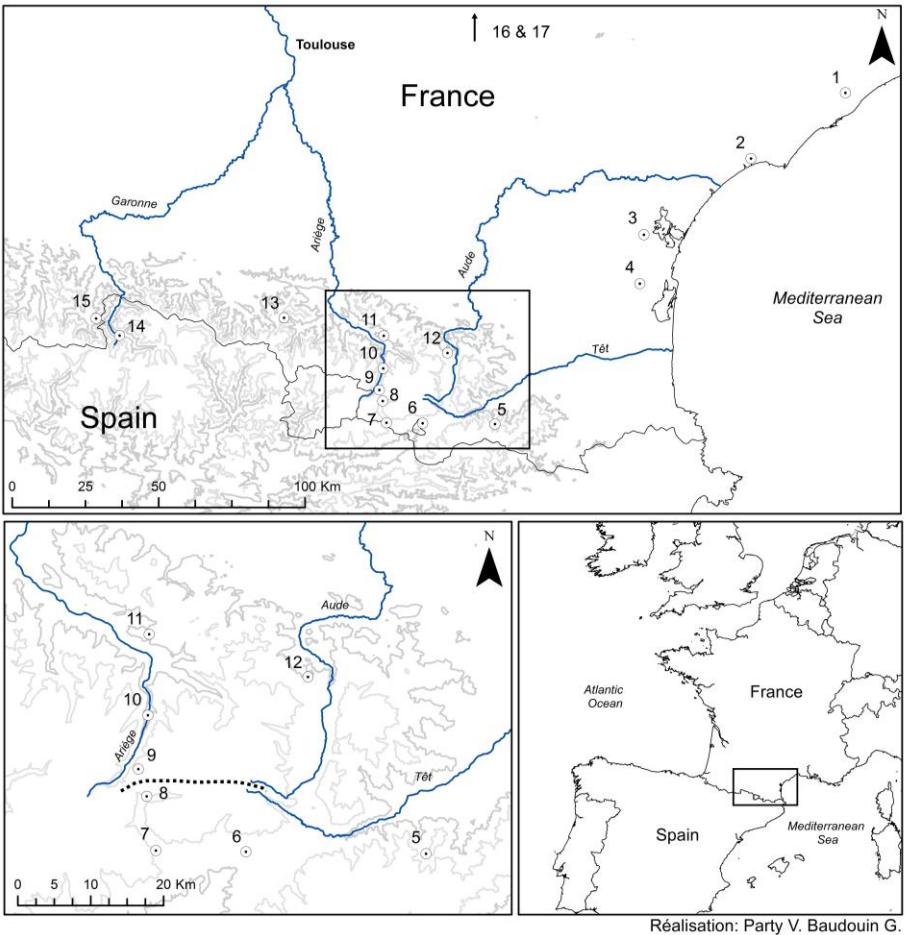


Thibaut Marin-Cudraz

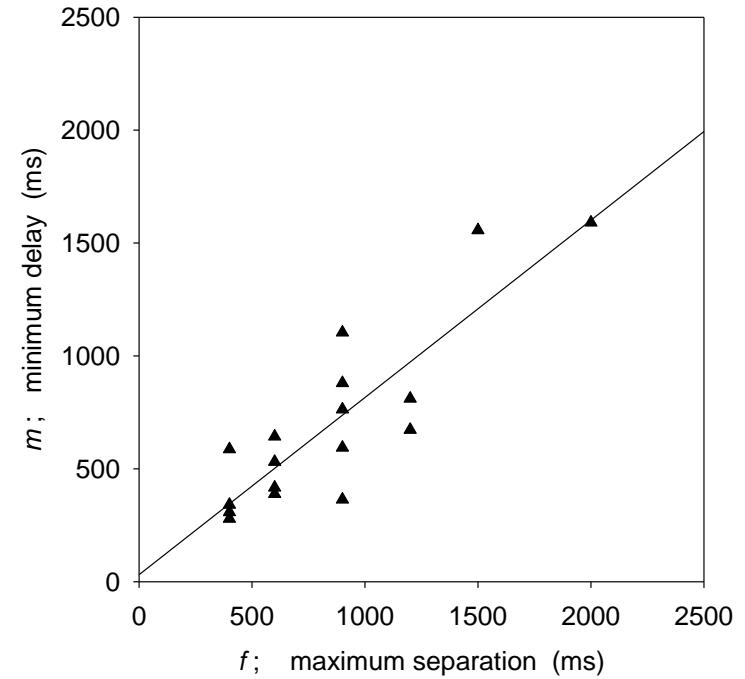
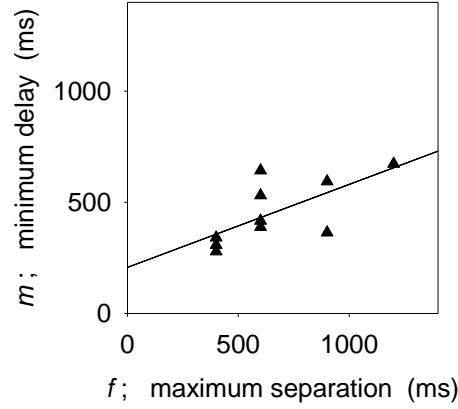
And with thanks to :

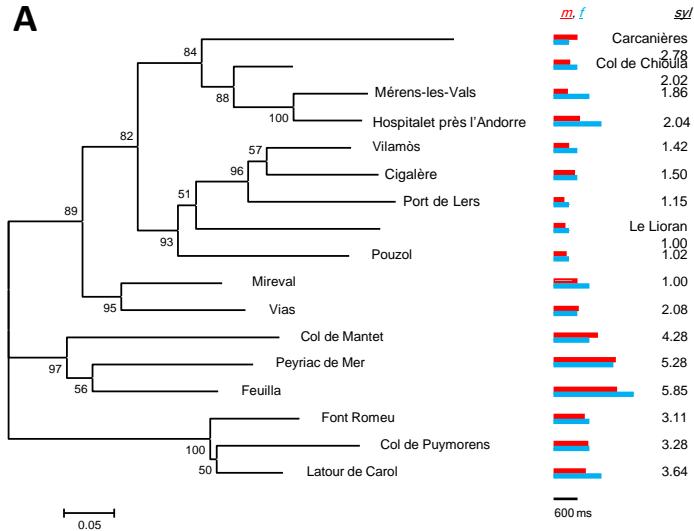
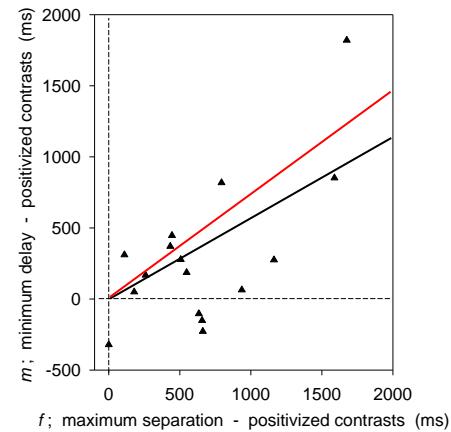
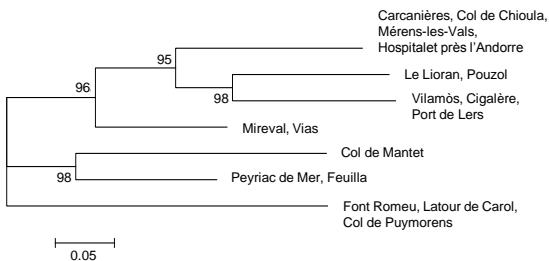
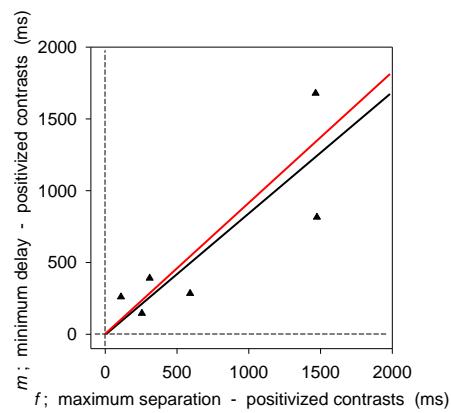
Flavia Barbosa, Guillaume Baudouin, Guy Bourdais, Odette Brunel-Pons, Marine Deluen, Séverine Devers, Marlène Goubault, Caroline Hébert, Aurelien Kerbrat, Justine Penin, Florian Plault, Darren Rebar, and Valery Terwilliger

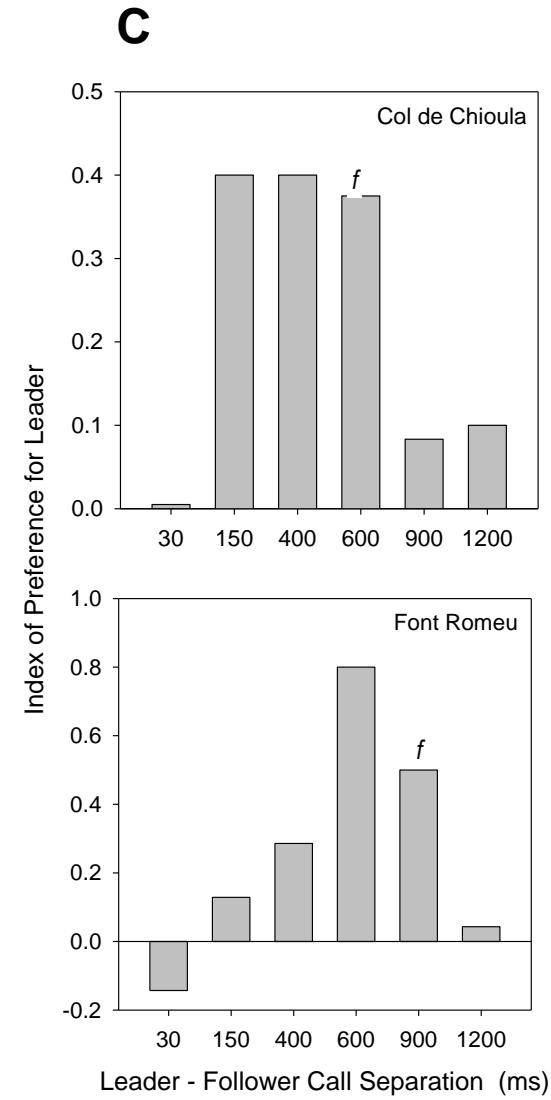
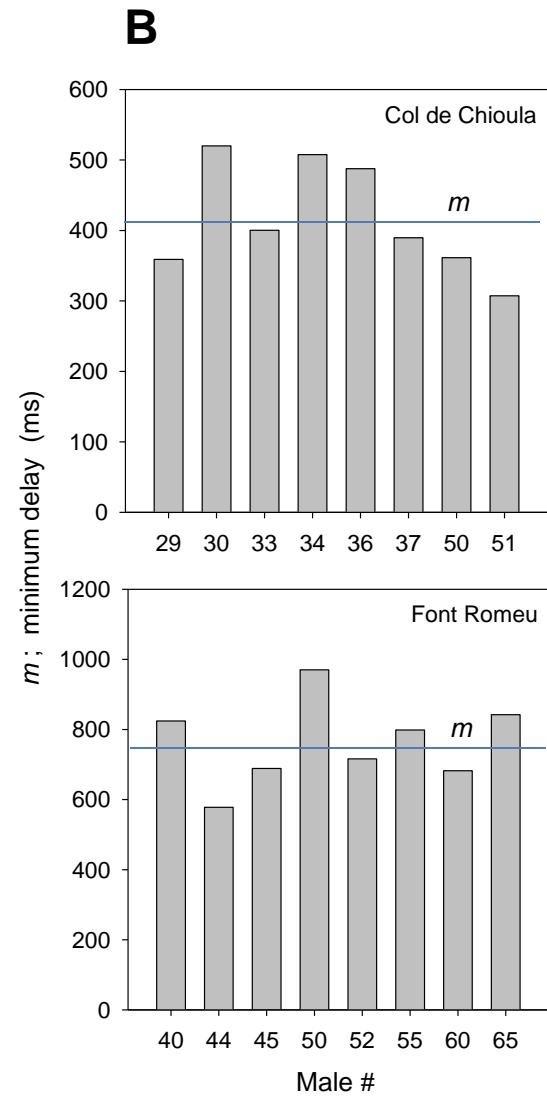
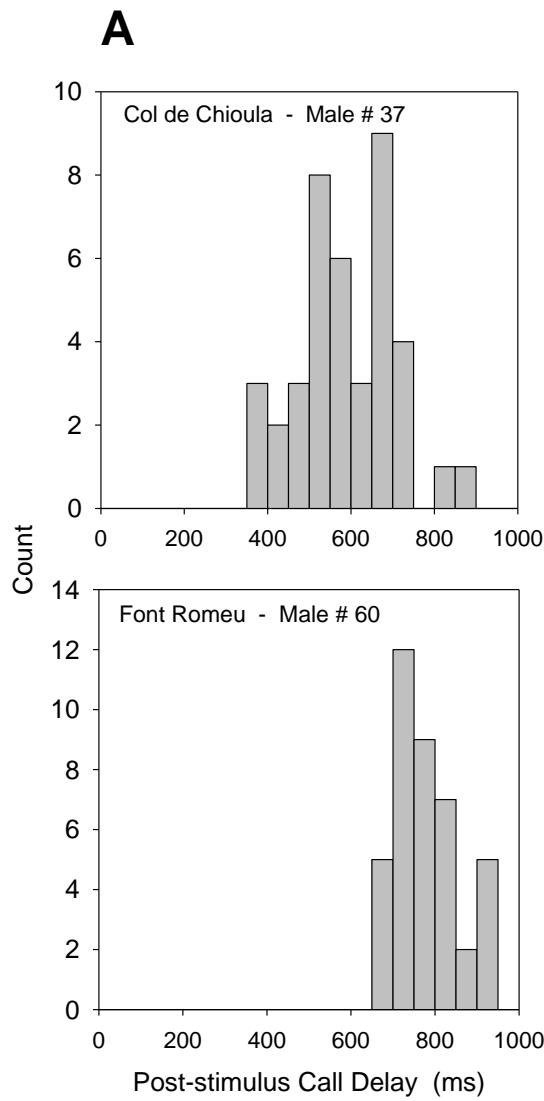


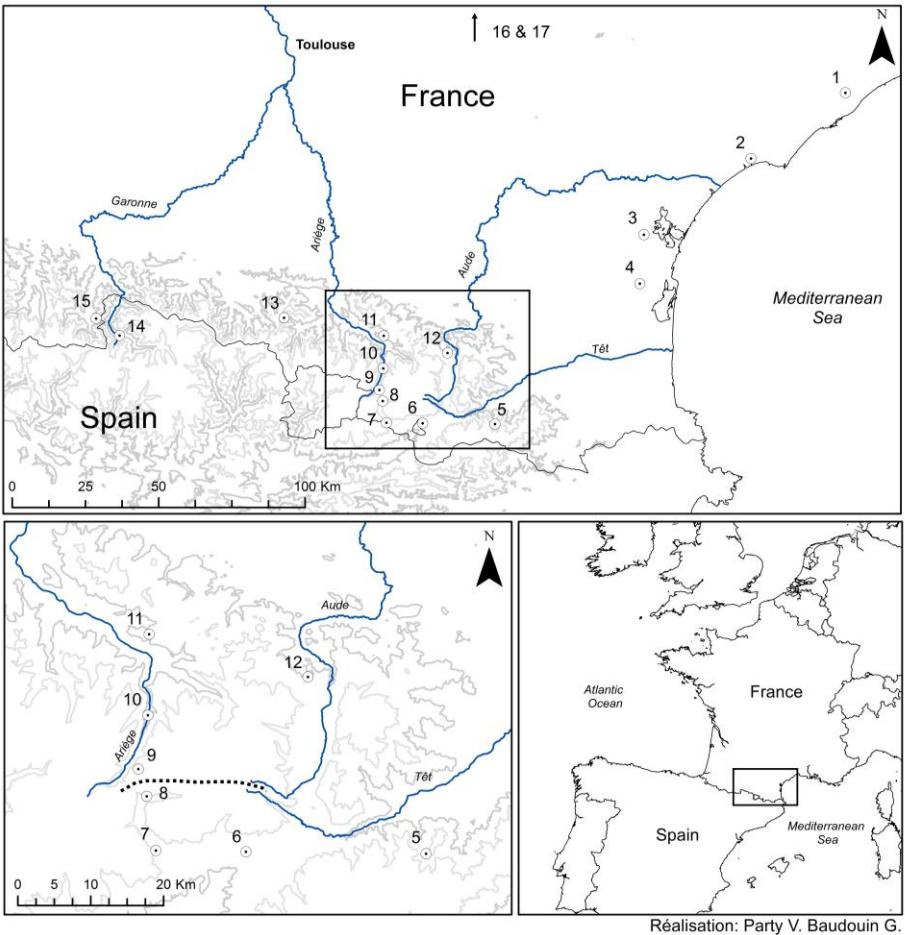
A

Populations: 1) Mireval, 2) Vias, 3) Peyriac de Mer, 4) Feuilla, 5) Col de Mantet, 6) Font Romeu, 7) Latour de Carol, 8) Col de Puymorens, 9) Hospitalet près l'Andorre, 10) Mérens-les-Vals, 11) Col de Chioula, 12) Carcanières, 13) Port de Lers, 14) Vilamòs, 15) Cigalère, 16) Le Lioran, 17) Pouzol.

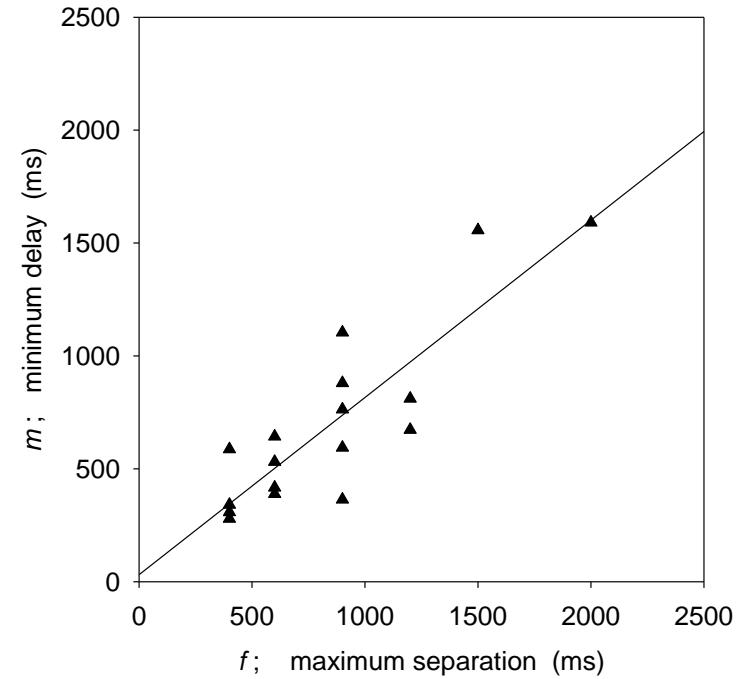
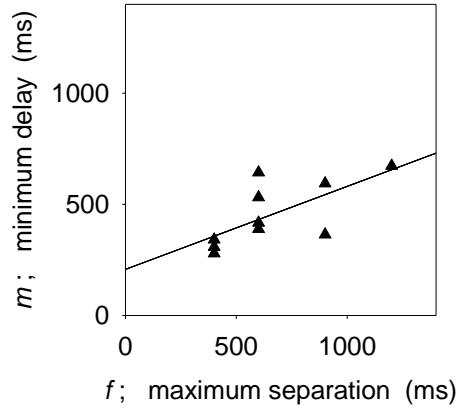
B**C**

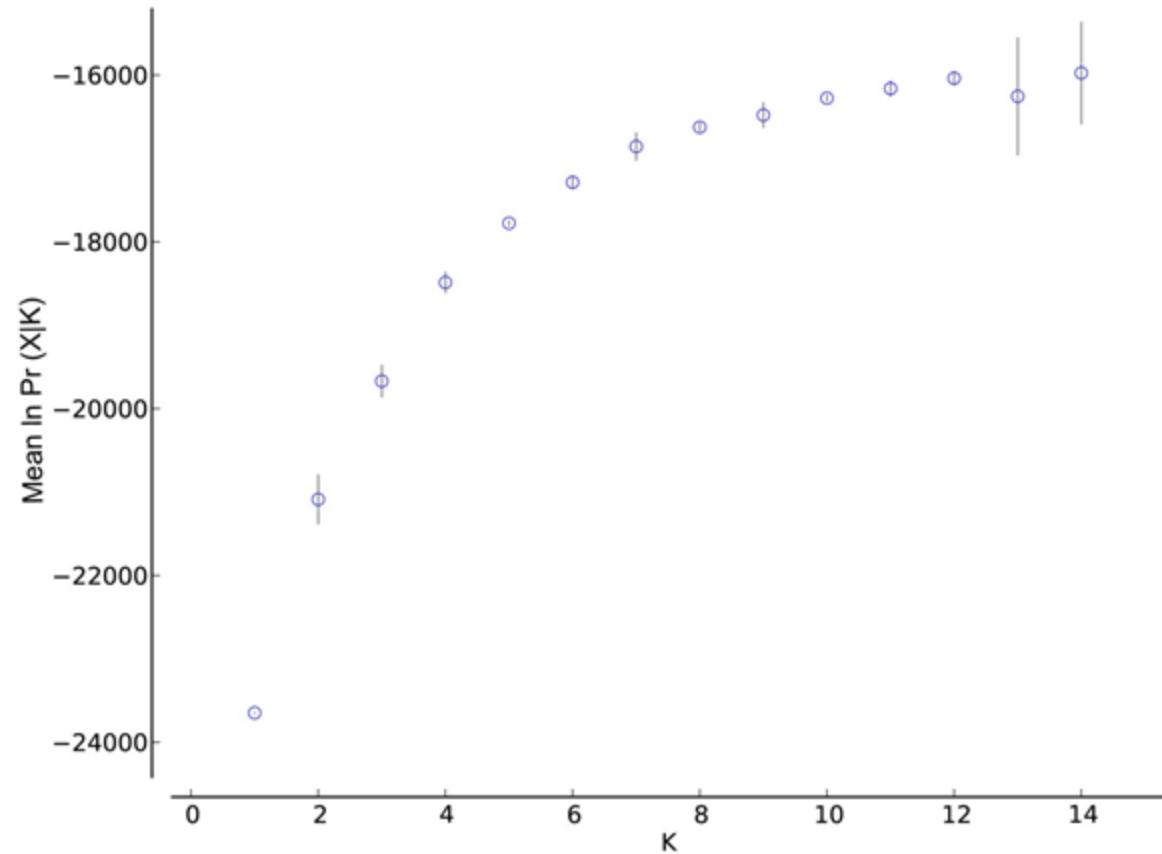
A**B****C****D**



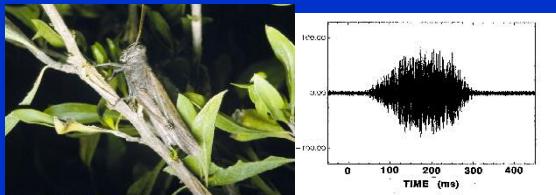
A

Populations: 1) Mireval, 2) Vias, 3) Peyriac de Mer, 4) Feuilla, 5) Col de Mantet, 6) Font Romeu, 7) Latour de Carol, 8) Col de Puymorens, 9) Hospitalet près l'Andorre, 10) Mérens-les-Vals, 11) Col de Chioula, 12) Carcanières, 13) Port de Lers, 14) Vilamòs, 15) Cigalère, 16) Le Lioran, 17) Pouzol.

B**C**

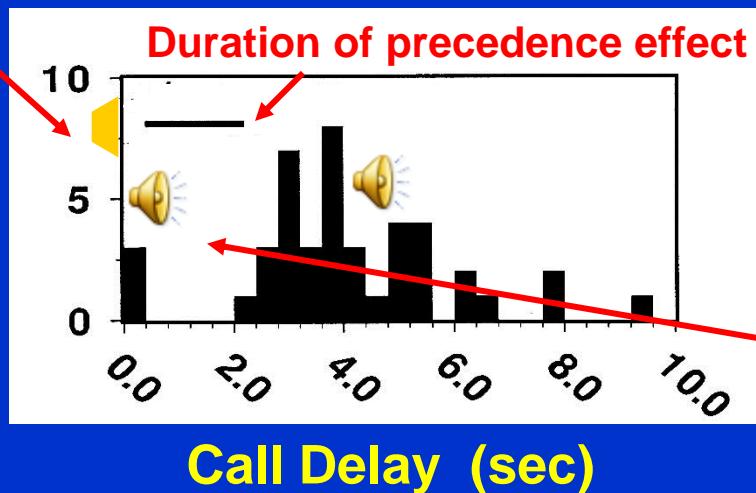


Hypothesis 1 : Inhibitory resetting mechanisms are favored by selection where psycho-acoustic precedence effects influence female receivers to prefer leading signals and to ignore following ones

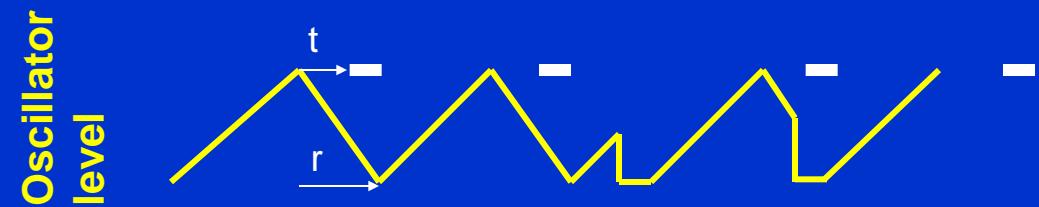
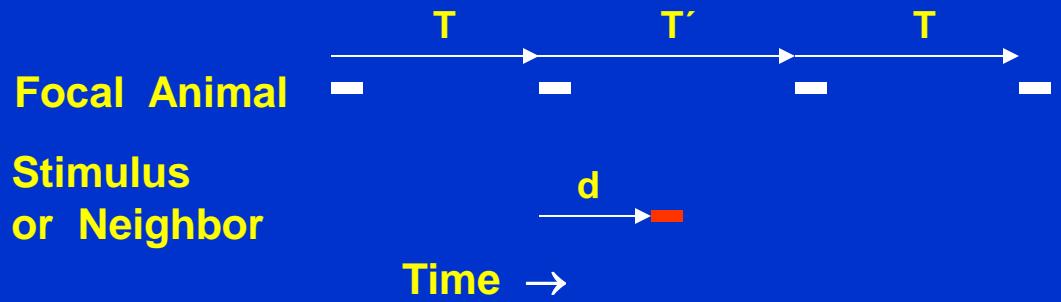


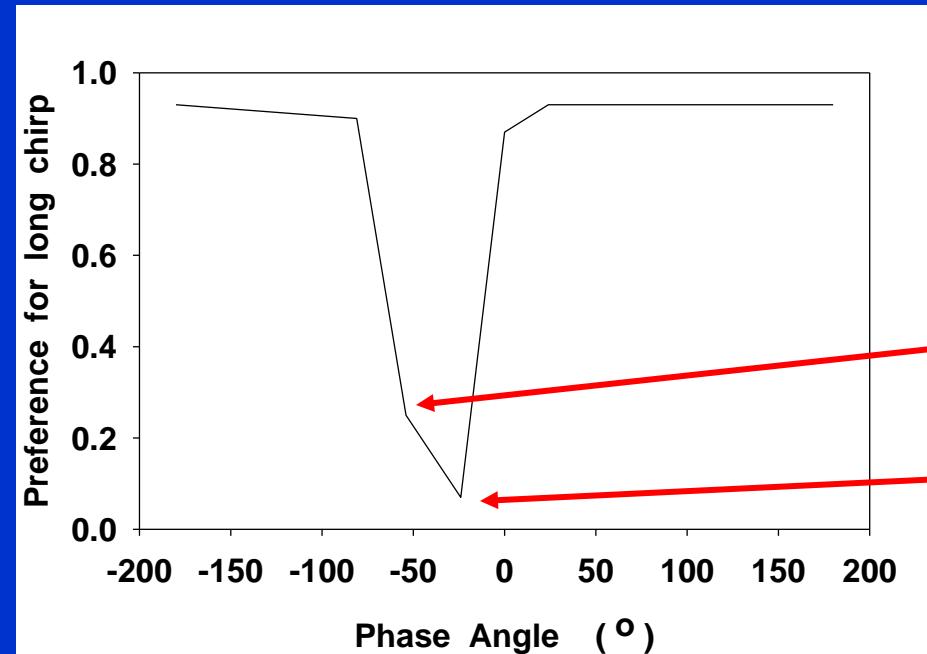
Ligurotettix planum (Acrididae)

Stimulus or neighbor at 0 sec

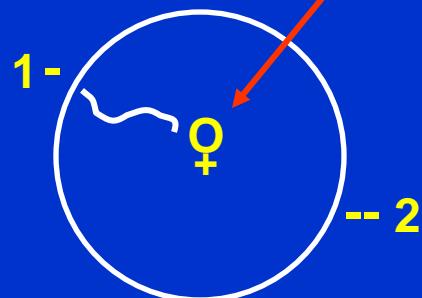


No signals by focal male during post-stimulus interval





Greenfield & Roizen 1993

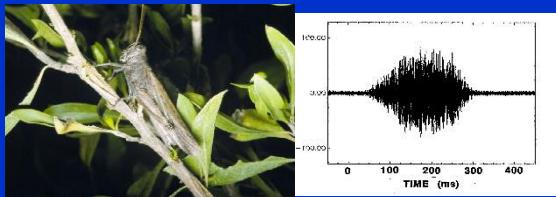


Phase Angle



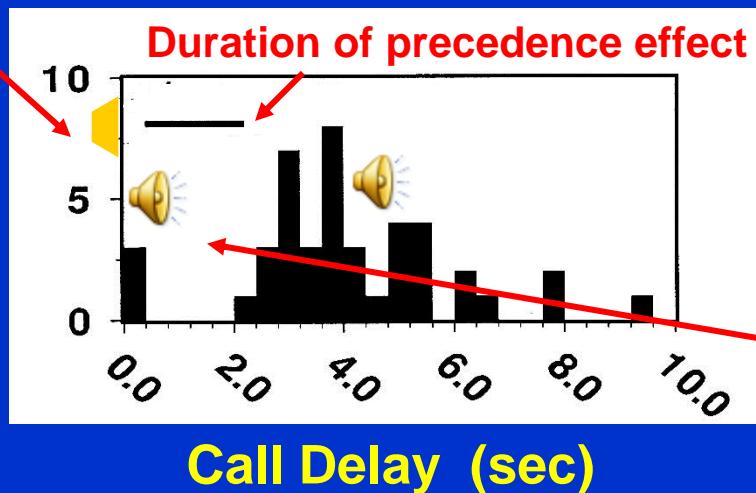
Neoconocephalus spiza - precedence effect in female phonotaxis

Hypothesis 1 : Inhibitory resetting mechanisms are favored by selection where psycho-acoustic precedence effects influence female receivers to prefer leading signals and to ignore following ones

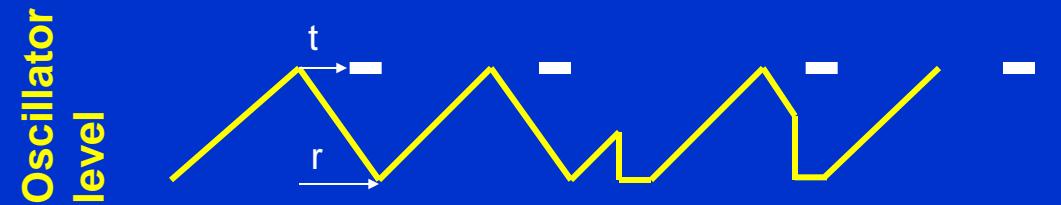
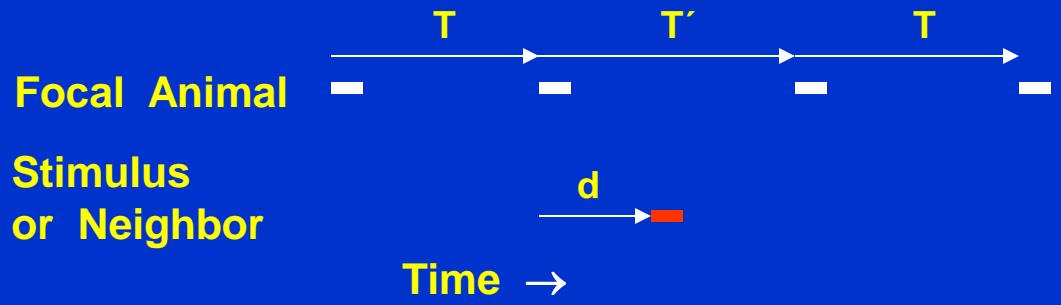


Ligurotettix planum (Acrididae)

Stimulus or neighbor at 0 sec

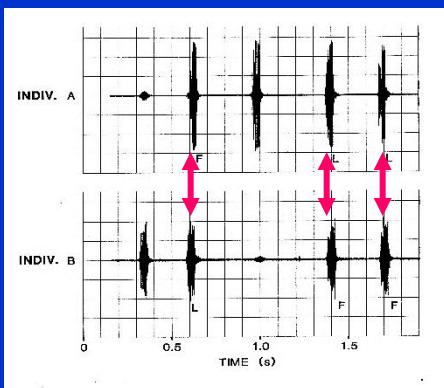


No signals by focal male during post-stimulus interval



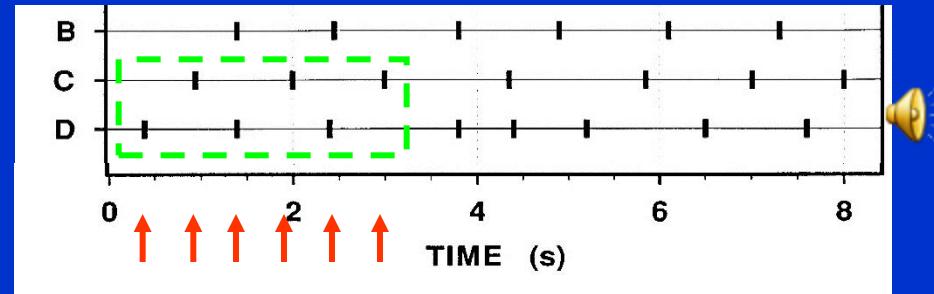
Hypothesis 2: Synchrony and alternation may arise as emergent properties of pairwise inhibitory-resetting interactions between neighboring signalers.

Imperfect Synchrony



Neoconocephalus spiza
(Tettigoniidae)

Alternation



Ephippiger diurnus (Tettigoniidae)

