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AGONISTIC BEHAVIOUR IN LYCOSA TARENTULA FASCIIVENTRIS DUFOUR  
(ARANEAE, LYCOSIDAE).

In this paper we try to quantify differences found between male-male and female-female interactions in Lycosa t. fasciiventris with regard to their development and results, and to evaluate if they conform to predictions about stabilization of behaviour strategies among members of a population depending on costs and benefits associated to play these.

Our results show: (i) behaviour variability is great, both in female-female and in male-male encounters, interactions between females being longer than between males, (ii) fight escalation being able to result in death is frequent during female-female interactions and (iii) result of encounters is predictable from size differences and previous occupation of the nest in female-female interactions; this is not so in the male-male ones.

These differences agree with predictions of cost-benefit analysis about behaviour strategies becoming stabilized in a population: (i) the value of resource in female-female encounters could be greater than in the male-male ones and costs of long interactions higher in these later because of time loss and exposure to predators; thus, competition between females must be stronger and escalation is more likely to occur, (ii) because of this risk of being seriously injured, in female-female encounters it is possible that a strategy evolved based on previous asymmetry both in relevant (size) and irrelevant (occupation of the nest) cues.