



Stingrays decide if there's a spark

FEMALE stingrays use electricity to decide whether an approaching male is a potential mate or a predator, according to new research from the University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute. The study on stingrays' use of electroreception in identifying mates is published in the journal *Brain, Behaviour and Evolution*. It found female blue spotted stingrays had more electrosensory nerve axons entering their brains than their male counterparts — and used them to their advantage. “Because it's the males that usually approach the females for mating, the extra electrosensory clues that females receive may allow them to distinguish mates from predators,” study author and shark biologist Ryan Kempster said.