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## Beauty has its cost

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Brooks reports in the 6 July *Nature* that male guppies that are sexually more attractive are also evolutionarily less fit (*Nature* 2000, **406**:67-70). This may reflect negative pleiotropic effects of genes for attractiveness, such as the energetic cost of creating large amounts of pigments. Alternatively, deleterious alleles may be hitching a ride in the region of the Y chromosome that has attractiveness genes such as those for color patterns. The increased attractiveness of the male fish ensure the chromosome's genetic survival, but suppression of recombination on the Y chromosome means that the deleterious alleles are not weeded out.

## References

1. Nature magazine, [<http://www.nature.com/nature/>]