**Litoria inermis** (Bumpy Rocket Frog). Reproduction.

The extent to which female frogs influence selection of amplexant partners is poorly known. While it is recognized that a female may make the primary choice of a male based on properties of his acoustic signal (Arak 1988. Behav. Ecol. Sociobiol. 22:317–327; Schwartz 1986. Ethology 73:116–127; Sullivan 1983. Anim. Behav. 31:1011–1017), female frogs, as they proceed through densely populated choruses towards their chosen partners, are undoubtedly susceptible to ambush by nearby males, and therefore may actually have little choice in their resultant mates. Few studies can be found that document amplexus as a result of female choice, and thereby actually confirm a female frog’s choice of partner (see Arak, op. cit.).

At ca. 2200 h on 10 February 1996, while searching for breeding frogs in savanna woodland, we observed a pairing of *Litoria inermis* in a chorus ca. 40 km W Townsville, Australia (146°25'E19°25'S). A male frog was calling continuously from a small patch of bare ground between large grass tussocks. We watched for some minutes before a female approached and stopped within 10 cm of the calling male. The male called incessantly, but did not approach the female. The female then circled the calling male in a series of short low hops, and again stopped ca. 10 cm from its vocal sac. The female then made a few short hops towards the male until her snout appeared to touch the male’s snout. Immediately, the male deflated his vocal sac and hopped onto the female to assume the amplexed position. Both frogs then hopped off into the moonrise.

Throughout the event, no other males approached the pair. The selected male did not make any approach towards the female until she touched his snout. The male was well within the chorus and other calling males were heard nearby. This suggests that the female selected and approached this calling male through the others. Ambush of the passing female by this or any other male was not observed. Males appeared to be evenly spaced and no satellite males were observed. While our observation represents only a single incidence, it supports the idea of amplexus initiation by female choice of reproductive partner and raises the question of the use of tactile communication to initiate amplexus between frogs.

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