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Sexual selection and speciation: mechanisms in Lake Victoria cichlid fish

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STELLINGEN

bij het proefschrift
‘Sexual selection and speciation; mechanisms in Lake Victoria cichlid fish’
van Martine Maan

1. The mechanism of divergence of *P. pundamilia* and *P. nyererei* corresponds to a set of theoretical assumptions that has been deemed ‘unrealistic’ (this thesis: Chapters 2 and 5).
2. Low water transparency can both promote and constrain haplochromine species diversity (this thesis, Chapters 5 and 6).
3. The sequence of events leading to haplochromine speciation, i.e. ecological segregation before divergent sexual selection or vice versa, cannot be deduced from a comparison between *Neochromis omnicaeruleus* and *Pundamilia* (this thesis).
4. Haplochromine colour vision is a ‘magic trait’ (*sensu* Gavrilets 2004; this thesis, Chapter 5).
5. Sympatric speciation by divergence of habitat preference is a *contradictio in terminis*.
6. The numerous selection pressures that organisms are subject to in nature, should be conducive of speciation in a much wider range of conditions than those that emerge from theoretical studies, that can typically incorporate only one or two axes of adaptation.
7. The name ‘*omnicaeruleus*’ (all blue) is inappropriate for a fish species in which at least three different colour morphs occur.
8. There is no such thing as an arbitrary trait.
9. Electronic access has enlarged the perceived distance to the library.
10. One believes things because one has been conditioned to believe them (Aldous Huxley 1932, *Brave New World*).
11. Turbid water does not preclude clear thinking.