In the study, no proven cases of polygyny were found in Marsh Warblers but there was a real shortage of females in this small, isolated and declining population. One case occured with Sedge Warblers. Examination of polygyny cases described elsewhere suggests polyterritorial behaviour is the principal strategy to achieve this. Because of this, the true extent of polygyny may be different to determine.

Population dynamics and breeding biology of Blyth's Reed Warbler Acrocephalus dumetorum.

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I have studied population dynamics and breeding biology of Blyth's Reed Warbler in Lappeenranta, SE Finland, from 1978 to 1985. Data on fluctuation of the same population, however, are available since 1962.
Blyth's Reed Warbler has rapidly increased in numbers both in the study area and in the whole Finland since the very first record in 1930 up to the 1970's, but the expansion has levelled off during the last decade.
In addition to breeding pairs, there were unpaired males every summer (on average 40%). There seems to be an excess of males. Blyth's Reed Warbler hybridizes regularly with the closely related Marsh Warbler A. palustris in the study area (every year 1-3 mixed pairs, or about 5-10% of the total number of Blyth's Reed Warbler pairs). Some males were polyterritorial polygynous; three males paired with both A. dumetorum and palustris female at the same time.
The general breeding biology of Blyth's Reed Warbler resembles very much that of the Marsh Warbler. The species is single-brooded with the most frequent clutch size of 6 eggs, but a replacement clutch is often laid even though a brood has been lost close to fledging. On average, 65% of the eggs laid produce a fledged young. The breeding success is fairly high compared to most other open-nesting small passerines. This factor possibely partly explains the recent expansion of the species towards northwest and west in Northern Europe.
I'm going to continue my work on Blyth's Reed Warbler special problems with include, for example the interspecific relationships between Blyth's Reed Warbler and Marsh Warbler. I will also try to solve some problems dealing with conservation biology by using Acrocephalus Warblers as a model species of patchy habitats.

Acrocephalus mating systems: A comparative approach

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A comparative survey of mating systems in six European Acrocephalus species revealed that two of the species can be classified as polygynous and four as monogamous.
Several correlations were then found between mating system and various aspects of behaviour, ecology and morphology.
Males of polygynous species invested little or nothing in parental care, whereas males of monogamous species shared it equally with females.
Males of polygynous species defended large resource based territories in high productive marshland ecotones rich in arthropod food. Monogamous males defended smaller territories in less productive marshland.