



EFFECTS OF OWNERSHIP STATUS, WEIGHT ASYMMETRY AND CASE FIT ON THE OUTCOME OF CASE CONTESTS IN TWO POPULATIONS OF AGRYPNIA PAGETANA (TRICHOPTERA: PHRYGANEIDAE) LARVAE

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The contest behaviour of larvae from a dense and a sparse population of the caddisfly *Agrypnia pagetana* was studied in the laboratory. Fights were generally of short duration and most fights were won by owners in both populations. Take-over contests lasted longer than non-take-over ones, indicating that owners in general used a more persistent strategy. Ownership was more important in the sparse population than in the dense population, but contest duration or intensity did not differ between the two populations. Effect of weight asymmetry was most pronounced in the dense population and here the larger larvae usually won. However, when the intruding larva was much larger than the owner, a low number of take-over contests was probably related to the inferior fit (low resource value) of small cases to the intruding larvae. In both populations the frequency of case take-over contests was low when the case fit to the intruder was low. The fighting strategies used were in line with the sequential assessment game for contests over resources of low value.

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