

NEW TRAVELLING



EXHIBITION

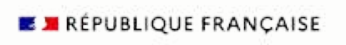


The scandalous life of nature

# Alex\_appeal

DESIGN BY TEDDY BELIER

Exposition d'intérêt national



# SEXUALITY SHAPES BIODIVERSITY AND CONTRIBUTES TO ITS INCREDIBLE EVOLUTION

Suitable for all audiences, families, schools and nature lovers!



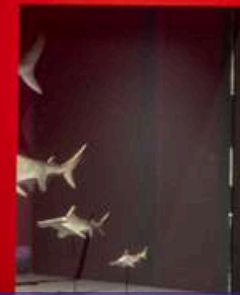
## REPRODUCTION SANS SEXE

Quelques espèces de reptiles, d'insectes ou encore de requins sont capables de se reproduire sans s'accoupler. Ce processus s'appelle la parthénogenèse. Une femelle peut alors transmettre son patrimoine génétique sans avoir à trouver un partenaire. Cependant, comme chaque individu est génétiquement identique, les femelles et leurs descendance seront plus vulnérables aux maladies et aux changements environnementaux qu'une lignée génétiquement plus diversifiée.



## SEX-FREE REPRODUCTION

Some species of reptiles, insects and sharks, for example, are capable of reproducing without mating. This process is called parthenogenesis. Females pass down their genetic heritage without having to find a mate. However, as each individual is genetically identical, the females and their offspring are bound to be more vulnerable to disease and environmental changes than more diverse genetic lineages.



Kamoutra animo  
Mating

# NEW TRAVELLING EXHIBITION

THE INTIMATE LIFE OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS EXPOSED  
WITHOUT TABOO!

Sexuality is a story as old as life itself. Whether in plants or animals, its existence arouses many passions. In fact, sexuality shapes biodiversity and contributes to its incredible evolution. Plants, represented mainly by flowers, are unrivalled seductresses when it comes to ensuring their fertilisation. Animals, adorned in eccentric colours, sing, dance, fight and cunningly achieve their goals. But beyond appearances, this diversity also manifests itself in various sexual practices. There's no doubt about it: nature's sex life is boundlessly diverse...

By delving into the very origins of scientific and naturalist observation, Sex Appeal, the Scandalous Life of Nature traces the development of scientific knowledge about sexuality and, through it, the transformations in our perception of the world. It demonstrates that evolution is not only the result of adaptation to the environment but also the culmination of courtship displays in a battle for seduction.

A field in which our species, *Homo sapiens*, has invented nothing!

An exhibition for everyone, with a humorous comic strip path specially created for teenagers!





# Sexualité discrète

La sexualité des plantes se révèle  
facilement par ses formes, ses  
couleurs et ses odeurs, mais aussi  
par sa créativité. Ancrées dans la terre,  
elles doivent faire preuve d'imagination pour  
se reproduire. La rencontre entre les  
différents gamètes est un challenge et  
les pollinisateurs jouent un rôle crucial.  
De quoi briser l'image d'une nature saine  
et asexuée, opposée à un monde sans  
en proie à ses subtilités ! Enrichies dans  
nos esprits, cette sexualité discrète ne  
sera mise en évidence qu'au 27 août.

OLFACTORY DEVICES AND INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

HUMOROUS COMIC STRIP SERIES  
BY MISTER BOX

SPECIMENS ET CASTS

MULTIMEDIA



# EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH

## PROLOGUE

AN IMMERSIVE ROOM ILLUSTRATING THE  
ORIGIN OF SEXUALITY

## 2 MAIN GALLERIES

PLANTS: A DISCREET FORM OF SEXUALITY

ANIMALS: A BESTIAL SEXUALITY

## ENDING

MATING RITUALS FOR COUPLES

Lutter



### Appel du sexe

A

A



# PROLOGUE SEXUALITY IS A STORY AS OLD AS LIFE ITSELF

DELVE INTO THE ORIGINS OF  
SEXUALITY AND LIFE



When did sex first appear? How and why did we  
move from asexual to predominantly sexual  
reproduction? What were the consequences?  
How does sexuality drive biodiversity?

# GALLERY 1 A DISCREET FORM OF SEXUALITY

THE SEXUALITY OF PLANTS IS  
FASCINATING ON MANY LEVELS

A TURBULENT HISTORY  
BOTANICAL EROTICISM

Entomological specimens, botanical models,  
scientific graphics, works of art, multimedia games...

## NEHEMIAH GREW (1641-1712)

Botaniste britannique, Grew est le premier à étudier la structure des plantes à l'aide d'un microscope et il jouera un rôle important dans l'histoire de la sexualité des plantes à fleurs. Dans son livre *Anatomy of plants* paru en 1682, il analyse et affirme les étamines comme organes sexuels mâles et les pistils comme organes sexuels femelles. Pour la première fois de l'histoire, les organes sexuels des fleurs sont décrits !



### NEHEMIAH GREW (1641-1712)

A British botanist, Grew was the first to study the structure of plants under a microscope and was destined to play an important role in the sexuality of flowering plants. In his book *Anatomy of Plants*, published in 1682, he analysed stamen and pistils and confirmed them to be the male and female sexual organs respectively. For the first time in history, the sexual organs of flowers truly existed in the literature!

## Découvertes sexuelles

Au 16<sup>e</sup> siècle, au début de la Renaissance, sous assistance au règne de la botanique, Grew est une véritable science. En opposition à l'Ancien et au Moyen Âge, les savants s'intéressent à la morphologie des plantes et tentent de découvrir les fonctions des différents organes et des pièces florales. De nombreux scientifiques se succèdent pour comprendre les plantes et surtout la sexualité des fleurs, apportent chacun leur tour leur pierre à l'édifice.



### SEXUAL SPECIMENS

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, at the beginning of the Renaissance period, under the reign of botany, Grew is a true science. In opposition to the Middle Ages and the Middle Ages, scholars are interested in the morphology of plants and try to discover the functions of the different organs and the floral parts. Many scientists succeed in understanding the plants and especially the sexuality of flowers, each bringing their own stone to the building.



### CHARLES DARWIN (1809-1882)

Charles Darwin was the first to propose the theory of evolution and the origin of species. He was a naturalist, geologist and biologist, best known for his contributions to evolutionary biology. His theory of evolution, based on the idea of natural selection, revolutionized the scientific community and the public's understanding of the natural world.



# GALLERY 2 THE SEX LIVES OF ANIMALS

THE ART OF SEDUCTION



ATTRACTION

SEXUAL INSTINCT

SEXUAL ORGANS

SEX-FREE REPRODUCTION

*Specimens, interactive AV, hands-on, casts,  
an X-rated cabin...*

Chez les animaux, il y a mille et une manières de pratiquer la sexualité. Ils sont tour à tour voraces, séducteurs, jouisseurs, solitaires, inséparables, homoérotiques... L'être humain n'a rien inventé ! La reproduction sexuelle est une machine à faire des différences. Essentielles dans le processus évolutif, ces différences permettent aux espèces de survivre et s'adapter. Les rôles de chaque sexe ne sont pas toujours ceux que l'on croit. La « supériorité physique » du mâle sur la femelle est loin d'être une loi universelle et la femelle, qui a encore beaucoup de secrets à révéler aux scientifiques, joue un rôle crucial dans la reproduction.



#### THE SEX LIVES OF ANIMALS

There are myriad forms of sexual behaviour in the animal kingdom. Animals can be insatiable, seductive, pleasure-seeking, solitary, inseparable, gay... Humans haven't invented anything! Sexual reproduction is a way of producing differences within the same species. Such differences are an essential part of the evolutionary process, enabling species to survive and adapt. The roles of each sex are not always those you would imagine. The "physical superiority" of the male over the female is far from universal, and the female - who still has many secrets for scientists to uncover - plays a pivotal role in reproduction.







# ENDING MATING RITUALS FOR COUPLES

UNINHIBITED NATURE?



HOMOSEXUALITY, AN ANCIENT STORY

FAR FROM STEREOTYPES

TWO OR MORE?

FOR ONE NIGHT OR ONE SEASON

FOR LIFE

# HUMOROUS COMIC STRIP SERIES BY MISTER BOX





# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Thierry LODÉ,**  
Evolutionary ecology biologist at Renne I University, EthoS  
laboratory.

**Emmanuelle POUYDEBAT,**  
Director of research at CNRS and MNHN.

**Nathalie ESCARAVAGE,**  
Biologist, UPSIII-EDB research professor.

**Monique BURRUS,**  
Biologist, teacher-researcher UPSIII-EDB.

**Thierry HOQUET,**  
Philosopher and lecturer in the history and philosophy of science at  
Paris Nanterre.

**Pierre-Henri GOUYON,**  
Professor emeritus at MNHN.

**Henri CAP,**  
PhD in biology, conservation assistant at the Natural History  
Museum of Toulouse.

**Philipp HEEB,**  
CNRS research director, behavioral ecologist, Evolution & Diversity  
Biology Laboratory (EDB).

# TURNKEY EXHIBITION



## SURFACE AREA

from 200 to 400 m<sup>2</sup>



## LANGUAGES

French / English

New languages can be integrated



## AUDIENCE

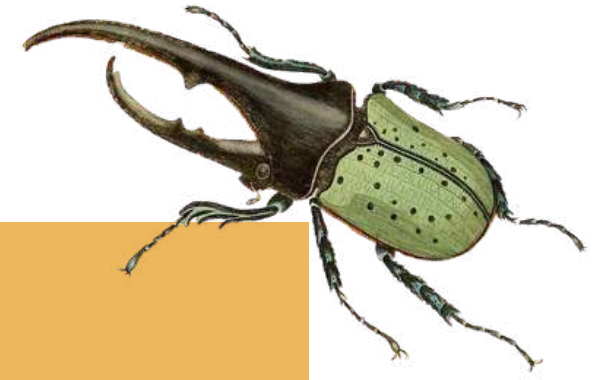
Family-oriented  
Teenage audience



## GRAPHIC DESIGN

Poetic and enchanting

AVAILABLE LATE 2026



**EMAIL**

[itinerance.museum@toulouse-metropole.fr](mailto:itinerance.museum@toulouse-metropole.fr)

**WEBSITE**

<https://museum.toulouse-metropole.fr/exposition-iti/>

**PHONE**

+33 (0)5 31 22 90 52

